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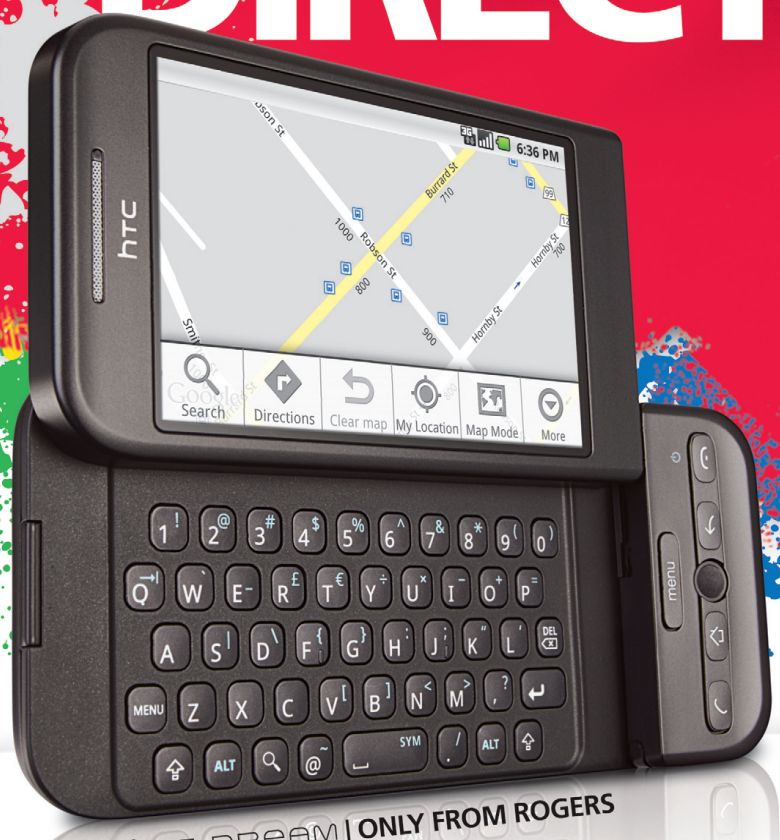

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Missing metals break the bank

GOLD The mint's missing stock of precious metals is worth tens of millions of dollars, the Toronto Star has learned. While officials at the Royal Canadian Mint have not released a value, insiders have confirmed auditors are trying to track precious metals, believed to be gold, worth in the "double digits" of millions.

Mint officials remain confident bookkeeping errors are to blame, but they haven't ruled out theft.

Give the high value of the missing metals, NDP MP Thomas Mulcair said yesterday mint staff should be calling on police to immediately launch a criminal investigation.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Sunny Side

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- **See what other Metro readers are doing and saying about SunnySide**

New Moon

All this week, Metro Canada is giving you a look behind the scenes of New Moon, the newest film in the TWILIGHT series.

TODAY — We talk to Taylor Lautner about New Moon and his character, Jacob Black, page 38

TOMORROW — An interview with director Chris Weitz

THURSDAY — An interview with actress Kristen Stewart

North Korea **12 years 'hard labour' for U.S. journalists**

AHN YOUNG-JOON/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

A South Korean man watches a TV broadcasting news about two American journalists detained in North Korea at the Seoul Railway Station, in South Korea yesterday. North Korea's top court convicted the journalists and sentenced them to 12 years in prison yesterday, intensifying the reclusive nation's confrontation with the United States. See full story page 13

MP storm swirls

Natural resources minister under fire for comments

Natural Resources Minister Lisa Raitt, speaking in an inadvertently recorded conversation, calls solving the isotope shortage a "sexy" issue that she hopes to take credit for and she also expresses doubts about the parliamentary skills of Health Minister Leona Aglukkaq.

The comments come in a more than five-hour recording that was made Jan. 30 and obtained by the Halifax Chronicle Herald.

In a lengthy conversation with her former aide, Jasmine MacDonnell, Raitt also accuses Michael Ignatieff of buckling to threats from Canadian bankers who say they won't donate to the party if the Liberal leader forces another federal election.

MP Lisa Raitt

As the two are being chauffered in British Columbia, they discuss Aglukkaq's handling of the isotope shortage caused by a heavy water leak at the Chalk River nuclear reactor near Ottawa.

"They're terrified of the issues," Raitt says during the recording, details of which were posted on the Chronicle Herald's website after a Nova Scotia judge ruled yesterday the newspaper could report the conversation.

"You know what? Good. Because when we win on this, we get all the credit. I'm ready to roll the dice on this. This is an easy one. You know what solves this problem? Money. And if it's just about money, we'll figure it out. It's not a moral issue."

Raitt also says she is disappointed in Aglukkaq.

"Oh, God, she's such a capable woman, but it's hard for her to come out of a cooperative government into this rough-and-tumble. She had a question in the House yesterday, or two days ago, that planked. I really hope she never gets anything hot."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Letter leaks spending by Port Authority

A leaked letter from four board members of the Toronto Port Authority raises questions about lavish spending, including $50,000 at an upscale steak house, and concerns that governance rules are not being followed.

It also reveals the depths of a nasty split in the board of directors — appointed by the city, province and federal governments.

The letter, dated March 30, 2009, from David Gurin, Christopher Henley, Michele McCarthy and Douglas Reid to Transport Minister John Baird outlines concerns about the board's actions, ranging from conflict of interest to not following procurement policy by providing $65,000 to hire an outside law firm whose legal opinion was kept from certain board members.

Olivia Chow

The letter was released yesterday by NDP MPP Olivia Chow at a news conference, where she said Auditor General Sheila Fraser should be called in to go through the books.

Lisa Raitt, who was CEO until she was elected to Parliament last October and now serves as natural resources minister, racked up nearly $80,000 in hospitality and travel expenses in 2007 and 2008, said Chow, who wants a proper audit of that spending.

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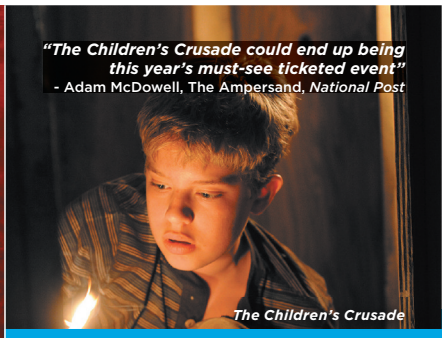
CLOCKWISE FROM LEFT: *NEVERMORE* PHOTO BY SEAN HENNAN; *THE CHILDREN'S CRUSADE* PHOTO BY CYLIA VON TIEDEMANN; *CONTINUOUS CITY* PHOTO BY EAMON LOCHTE-PHELPS; *LIPSYNCH* PHOTO BY ERICK LABBÉ.



"The Children's Crusade could end up being this year's must-see ticketed event"
- Adam McDowell, The Ampersand, *National Post*

The Children's Crusade

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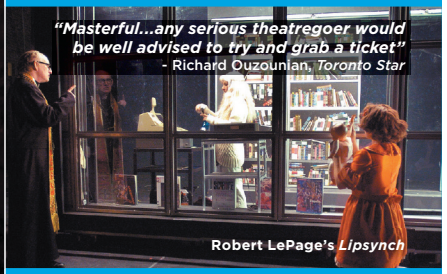

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- Richard Ouzounian, *Toronto Star*

Robert LePage's *Lipsynch*

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Dog owner facing charges
In a rare move, the city of Oshawa is taking a dog owner to court after receiving complaints from his neighbours. George Vertsonis, 30, is charged with one count of allowing an animal to emit animal sounds for extended periods and two counts of failing to register an animal. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Local

Ballantyne gets nod for Regent Park

Derek Ballantyne, left, the former chief executive of the Toronto Community Housing Corp., received the 2009 Jane Jacobs prize last night for creating more livable and vibrant communities including the Regent Park redevelopment. Ballantyne, now chief operating officer of Build Toronto, "changed the game plan" in public housing, organizers said in a news release. The prize, first awarded in 1997, includes a stipend of $3,000 per year for three years and is named for author and urban thinker Jane Jacobs, who died in 2006. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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Take Five Pg 43

Tomorrow's Metro

My Drive

Heather Buchan takes a ride through the world of celebrity cars in new column My Drive.

metronews.ca

WHAT'S ONLINE TODAY

Video Nova Scotians appear poised to elect the first NDP government east of Ontario at **metronews.ca/canada**

Blog It's Called Football welcomes Canadian keeper Pat Onstad to refute reports he has retired from international soccer and Hollywood Rants' list of classic booze-soaked cinema.

Lotteries

Ontario Pick 3: 3 7 7; **Ontario Pick 4:** 4 7 9 0
Encore: 6722041
Daily Keno: 1, 6, 12, 13, 15, 26, 28, 31, 33, 35, 37, 39, 41, 43, 50, 57, 61, 65, 66 and 68.
These results are not official.

Trustees facing tougher regulations

Should Toronto Catholic trustees ever again decide to vote themselves benefits they aren't entitled to, all or part of their pay could be withheld until they have reimbursed the board.

The motion comes before the Toronto Catholic District School Board's supervision team tomorrow and is meant to clarify the rules, said spokesperson Emmy Milne.

The motion would also limit trustees to a BlackBerry, no additional cellphone and a maximum monthly bill of $215. In the past, some trustees have racked up thousands in cellphone bills.

215 Catholic trustees would be limited to a maximum cellphone bill of $215.

In 2007, trustees voted themselves medical and dental benefits, similar to those provided to board employees, despite being told by board lawyers such a move violated the Education Act.

The benefits were stripped at the end of June 2008 after the board was taken over by a supervisor who had been sent in by the province.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Remix Project in need of scratch by October

YOUTH Ask any critically acclaimed rapper: Just because you're getting praised doesn't mean you're getting paid.

Or ask the leaders of the Remix Project, a celebrated Toronto non-profit for at-risk youth that must now scrounge for money to avoid major cutbacks.

Replicated in three countries, lauded by the United Nations, visited by Governor General Michaëlle Jean and twittered about by Mayor David Miller, Remix will lose $200,000, about 40 per cent of its operating budget, when its grant from the National Crime Prevention Centre expires in September.

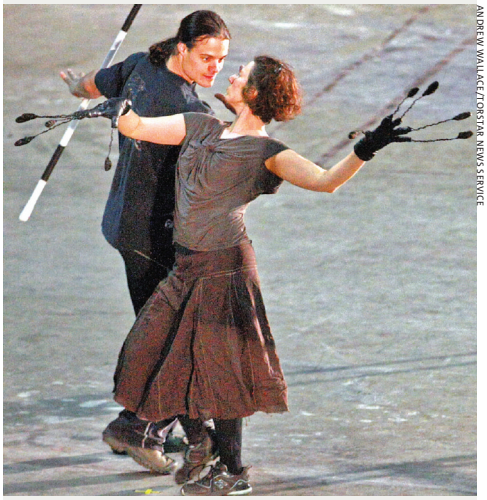
The organization's six-month training program has been heralded for preparing creative but vulnerable young people for careers in the arts — and, in doing so, keeping them out of trouble. But if it does not raise $100,000 by the end of October, it will be forced to shrink significantly, says executive director Gavin Sheppard.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Founded

- Remix was founded in 2006. Its 120 graduates, many of whom are from high-risk "priority neighbourhoods," include high school dropouts, convicts and teenage parents.

Luminato **Cirque du Soleil**



ANDREW WALLACE/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Cirque du Soleil performers prepare at Maple Leaf Gardens yesterday. The world famous circus theatre troupe will perform outdoor as part of Luminato.

Shrine Circus takes Newmarket to court

COURT The circus is coming to town — but instead of under the Big Top, the Shrine Circus will first appear in a Newmarket courtroom.

Last month, Newmarket council voted to ban June 17 and 18 performances by the Shrine Circus from the town-owned Ray Twinney Recreation Complex, saying the facility, which is located in a residential area, was not an appropriate or safe venue for performing animals.

Xentel DM Inc., which stages and presents the circus for the Shriners, fired back, taking the town to court this Thursday.

Two years ago, Newmarket made headlines worldwide after two elephants from the Garden Bros. Circus at the rec complex escaped. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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Cops seek suspects in sex assault
Halton police are searching for two men after a 17-year-old girl was driven to a Burlington motel and sexually assaulted last week. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Bucking bus trend

Mississauga considers scaling back service

The recession is taking such a toll on transit ridership in Mississauga that the city is considering scaling back its aggressive growth plan designed to lure residents out of their cars and onto the bus.

The drop in ridership — six per cent across the system in the first four months of this year — runs counter to a trend in the GTA that has seen transit use continue to grow despite climbing unemployment.

Ridership on some Mississauga routes in industrial areas around Dixie and Tomken roads is down as much as 25 per cent, according to a report before the city's budget committee.

25 Percentage of drop in transit ridership on some industrial routes in Mississauga.

The city's commissioner of transportation and works is hopeful that Mississauga ridership will recover through the summer and fall. Meantime, slowing expansion "is the rational thing to do because the economy has slowed," said Martin Powell.

Other factors may have played into the year's slow start, he said, including the TTC's decision to freeze fares while Mississauga raised its own even higher, as well as miserable winter weather that may have discouraged people from taking the bus in January and February.

Mississauga increased cash fares to $3 in January, the second hike in 11 months. The TTC charges $2.75.

The budget report recommends that there be no general fare increase next year. But it does propose raising the cost of the U-Pass (for university students) by $15 effective in September 2010, and eliminating routes that cost the city more than $4 per ride. It doesn't indicate which routes would be affected.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Secret deal hearing powers ahead

POLITICS An Ontario Municipal Board hearing into a major employment zone off Highway 400 in Bradford West Gwillimbury is powering ahead despite calls to adjourn it until a Simcoe County growth plan is OK'd.

Originally slated to go on for months, an abridged version of the hearing moved at breakneck speed yesterday as lawyers for the developer and municipality led their planners through the project's merits.

Until late last year, the province was ready to challenge the Bradford project on the grounds it did not conform to a sweeping provincial plan for aimed at curbing urban sprawl.

But after a deal secretly negotiated with a facilitator's help earlier this year changed all that, the province dropped objections to the plan.

The deal doesn't require public input, so the hearing technically has no issues to address. That leaves opposition in the hands of a group of residents who are allowed to participate but don't have official status as a party to the case.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

New release **I do**

SUBMITTED

Actor Ryan Reynolds drops by MuchOnDemand last night. He is promoting his new comedy The Proposal, in theatres June 19.

No witnesses coming forward, says stabbing victim's mom

VIOLENCE Ayoob Adam, 16, was visiting his aunt on the weekend on Dixon Road, between Islington and Kipling avenues, when he heard a commotion between the high-rises below. He went to investigate and was stabbed in the chest.

Shortly after Adam went downstairs, police responded to sounds of gunfire at 340 Dixon Rd. They found Adam on the ground behind the building along with another youth, who had been shot.

Both were taken to hospital. Adam was pronounced dead. The other victim remains alive but police have not released his name or details of his condition.

No witnesses are coming forward, Adam's mother said. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

News in brief

SHOOTING A 21-year-old man is in hospital after he was shot twice in a west-end plaza. Witnesses told police the man was shot outside a Metro grocery store near Keele Street and Lawrence Avenue West just after 11 p.m. There was a blood trail leading to a bus stop a few blocks north of Keele, where paramedics found the victim on the sidewalk suffering from gunshot wounds in the leg and hand. He was taken to Sunnybrook hospital with serious injuries.

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All-Inclusive • Standard rm.
June 28 • 1 wk.
$729
Taxes & fees: $313

Liberia, Costa Rica
Occidental Grand Papagayo • 4 1/2 ★
All-Inclusive • Deluxe rm.
June 13 & 20 • 1 wk.
$699
Taxes & fees: $183
Departure tax: US $ 26 cash, paid locally

Holguin
Occidental Grand Playa Turquesa • 4★
All-Inclusive • Superior rm.
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Departure tax: 25 CUC cash, paid locally.

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Third stabbing victim found in Etobicoke

An autopsy has revealed that a man who was killed during an altercation in Etobicoke Sunday was stabbed in the chest. Police probed the scene yesterday and found a third man also suffering from non-life-threatening stab wounds. The victim's name has not been released. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Animosity for anonymous

Adoption records opening brings up bad memories for adoptee

When Ontario threw open its adoption records June 1, requests for answers and anonymity came flooding in.

There have been more than 1,000, all arriving by snail mail, which means the numbers will continue to climb in the coming weeks.

But while many dream of fairy-tale reunions, some adoptees who have already found their birth parents are warning they don't always have a happy ending.

Randi, 43, a Toronto teacher who asked that her last name not be published, was rejected by her birth mother not once, but twice: Once as a baby, and again at age 30.

"It's very important that people be solidly, psychologically healthy before they even do this," she said.

When she was 29, Randi reconnected with two half-brothers through the province's Adoption Registry. All three had applied for birth information, and she has since grown close to them.

Randi and one of her brothers later found their mother using clues from the non-identifying information they had received and with help from the adoption support group Parent Finders.

> **"It's very important that people be solidly, psychologically healthy before they even do this."**
> Randi, adoptee

"It was a great first meeting," she said. There were pictures, presents and many stories, and Randi left feeling her mother was happy to have her back in her life.

But it ended with a phone call not long after that. Her mother said she could not bring herself to tell family and friends that she had given up not only one child, but three.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

MORE COVERAGE, PAGE 35

2-alarm fire **Queen and Jarvis**

VINCE TALOTTA/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Toronto firefighters arrive at a two-alarm fire at The Fred Victor Centre at Queen and Jarvis yesterday. A man was rushed to hospital in critical condition and a firefighter was taken to hospital with unknown injuries. The cause of the fire was unknown at press time.

Preservation in sight for David Dunlap Observatory

DECISION There's fresh hope for Richmond Hill nature lovers and astronomy buffs who fought the University of Toronto's sale of the David Dunlap Observatory and its grounds to a developer last year.

The provincial Conservation Review Board has recommended that much of the 77-hectare site be designated a cultural heritage site.

In a 61-page report released last week, the CRB offered a thorough, building-by-building rationale for its recommendations.

The board recommended the designation for the observatory building, a separate administration building, the historic home known as Elms Lea and land directly connecting the buildings. It also called for protecting Donalda Drive, a curved entrance road flanked by mature trees, a radio astronomy shack, a cluster of trees planted by the U of T's forestry department, and almost all the connecting land.

The recommendations cover about 80 per cent of the site and go well beyond those of the Town of Richmond Hill and new owner Metrus, which sought during a January board hearing to limit designation to a small swath of land around the historic buildings and entrance.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Final call

- Ultimately, it's the town that will make the final call through a designation by-law, said Ana Bassios, Richmond Hill's commissioner of planning and development.

News in brief

BREAK IN A man trying to break into a Bloor Street business was left hanging — upside down — for hours yesterday after getting stuck in a basement window. Police believe the 48-year-old man had been hanging from the window for four hours. After firefighters freed him, the man was taken to hospital and treated for minor scrapes. He is charged with break and enter and was in police custody last night. His name has not been released. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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Westway Plaza
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9275 Hwy. 48
MISSISSAUGA
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4141 Dixie Rd.
920 Southdown Rd. Bldg. H, Unit 7
2116 Burnhamthorpe Rd. W
Sandalwood Square
6085 Creditview Rd.
NEWMARKET
Upper Canada Mall
1065 Davis Dr.
18075 Yonge St.
NORTH YORK
Bayview Village
OSHAWA
Oshawa Centre
285 Taunton Rd.
PICKERING
1822 Whites Rd.
RICHMOND HILL
1070 Major Mackenzie Dr. E
SCARBOROUGH
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Scarborough Town Centre
2490 Gerrard St. E
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THORNHILL
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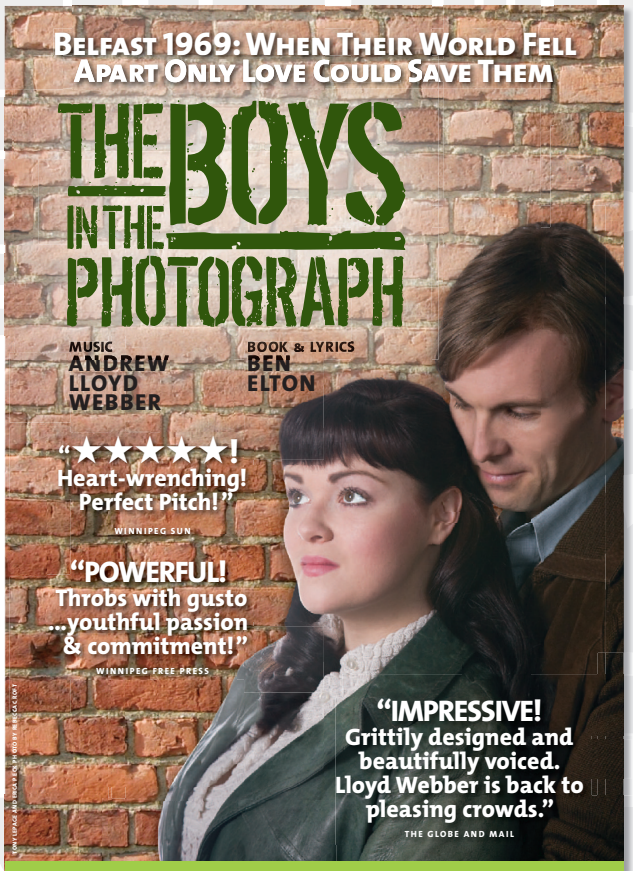

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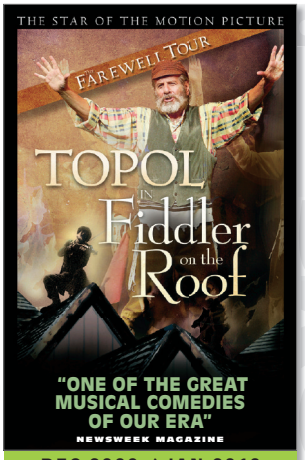

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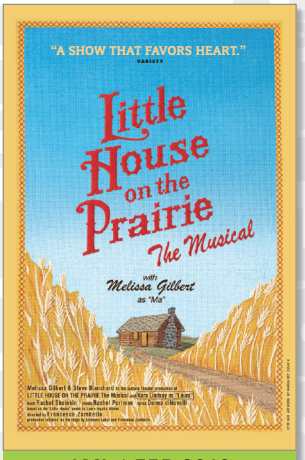

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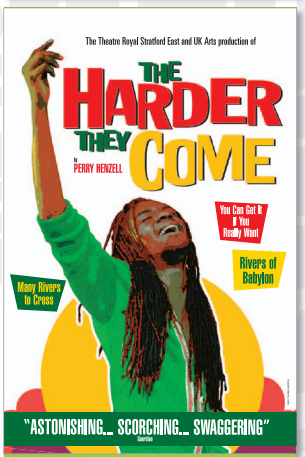

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Montreal gets bloggers to help promote city

Think you know Montreal? Whether the answer is yes or no, five web-savvy bloggers hired by Tourism Montreal are betting they can show you things to do that will let you live like the locals. How about free food if you're a woman, or a pedicure where fish eat the dead skin off your feet? THE CANADIAN PRESS

Canada

Multivitamins help moms to be: Study

Women who take a multivitamin during pregnancy are far less likely to deliver underweight or preterm babies, says a study published today in the Canadian Medical Association Journal. The finding should prompt the World Health Organization to change its prenatal vitamin policy, which currently distributes folic acid and iron to expectant mothers in developing nations, the study's lead author says.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Afghanistan **Soldier dies**

COLIN PERKEL/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Canadian Brig.-Gen. Jonathan Vance announces the death of Pte. Alexandre Peloquin (inset), 20, who was killed yesterday in a roadside blast, at the Kandahar Airfield.

Caplan refuses to quit

Opposition wants minister gone after eHealth scandal

Ontario Health Minister David Caplan rejected calls for his resignation yesterday over a spending scandal at embattled eHealth Ontario, a day after its top executive was abruptly removed from her job.

The agency has come under fire for questionable spending and awarding more than $5 million in untendered contracts.

Sarah Kramer's appointment as the agency's president and CEO was revoked Sunday amid the public outcry over eHealth, which allowed high-paid consultants to bill taxpayers for minor purchases like tea and snacks.

Undaunted, the opposition parties turned up the heat on Caplan, demanding yesterday he resign for mishandling eHealth.

"Forty-billion-dollar ministry ... and we have a minister who stands on the sidelines and does nothing when millions of dollars are given out in contracts not tendered," charged NDP health critic France Gélinas.

Caplan defended his record, saying he's made efforts to restore public faith in eHealth and asked auditor general Jim McCarter to speed his probe of the agency. THE CANADIAN PRESS

eHealth background

- eHealth was established after the first provincial agency tasked with creating electronic health records, Smart Systems for Health, spent about $650 million but failed to produce anything of value before it was quietly shut down.

Molson cuts free beer for workers

ALLOTMENT If you sang that well-worn campfire song about the beer bottles on the wall, you'd have to start at 864.

That's the annual complimentary beer allotment for retirees from the Molson brewery in St. John's, N.L., the same amount of free suds they received while still working.

But without consulting them, Molson has decided to stop it.

Come Jan. 1, the allotment nationwide will be a dozen bottles per month, down from six dozen, and in five years, it will be zero. For current workers, the allotment is also being cut to 52 cases of 12 per year, though no five-year cutoff is planned.

Retirees held a protest outside the brewery last Friday, demanding a meeting with top company officials.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Canada set to fight Buy America

TRADE Canada will launch a major arm-twisting effort in Washington today that targets American congressmen and senators vulnerable to tit-for-tat retaliation against U.S. protectionism.

Trade Minister Stockwell Day said Canadian trade officials from across the United States are descending on Congress and will be meeting with lawmakers armed with numbers about how many jobs in their districts could be lost if Canada retaliates against Buy America provisions.

"This is the ongoing full-court press to get the attention of Congress that the Buy America provisions as currently constituted are going to wind up hurting jobs, hurting business on both sides of the border," he said in an interview.

"We've produced a map that goes state by state, shows the vulnerabilities in each state."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Flaherty against protectionist measures

- Finance Minister Jim Flaherty says Canadian municipalities shouldn't adopt protectionist measures in retaliation for a Buy American policy that favours U.S. companies. The minister was responding to a weekend vote by municipal leaders barring contracts from U.S. firms that have stopped buying Canadian products under the congressional policy.

News in brief

BRICK Retired Ontario brewer Jim Brickman is denying all allegations of wrongdoing against him in a lawsuit filed by Brick Brewing Co. Ltd., which he founded in the early 1980s. Brickman says he was "blindsided" and had no forewarning of the litigation seeking $1 million in damages before it was announced last Tuesday. Among other things, the 23-page statement of claim filed by the company in Ontario Superior Court says Brickman had his wife on the payroll without her doing any work for the company.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Former Iranian Revolutionary Guard member deported

The Canada Border Services Agency says it has deported a former member of the Iranian Revolutionary Guard. Seyed Amin Hoseyni Bob Anari was deemed inadmissible to Canada for committing crimes against humanity, and was ordered deported from Vancouver by immigration officials. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Cautious signs of optimism

Canada may have reached bottom in downturn, says OECD

There are signs Canada's economy has stabilized, Finance Minister Jim Flaherty said yesterday as a major international think-tank cited Canada among countries in the leading-edge of recovery.

The minister's remarks came as the Organization for Economic Co-Operation and Development named Canada among four industrialized countries showing signs of having reached a bottom in the economic downturn.

The OECD cautioned it was still too early to say whether the signs of improvement were "temporary or a more durable turning point," but said positive indicators were present in a majority of its 30 member countries.

"The OECD composite leading indicators for April 2009 point to a reduced pace of deterioration in most of the OECD economies with stronger signals of a possible trough in Canada, France, Italy and the United Kingdom," the organization said.

Flaherty expressed "cautious optimism that a global economic recovery may not be far behind."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Canada's index

- The OECD leading indicators report found Canada's index had increased by 0.4 points in April from March, although it remained 7.6 points lower than last year.

A screenshot of olympicshame2010.com, a website launched by People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) that turns the Vancouver Olympics mascots into bloody seal killers.

PETA launches Olympics spoof to fight seal hunt

ONLINE A website that features a spoof of the Vancouver Olympic mascots dripping blood and clubbing a seal was launched Thursday by People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA).

Spokesperson Nicolle Matthews said olympicshame2010.com is PETA's latest attempt to use the Olympics to "shame Canada over the seal hunt."

"PETA launched the website to intensify global pressure on the Canadian government," Matthews said. "We want the Olympic committee to use their clout to end the hunt."

She added the mascots, Quatchi, Miga and Sumi, were chosen because they're "highly visible" symbols of the Games.

While the Olympics are not connected to the seal hunt, Matthews said she hopes people will understand PETA's reasons for using the Games as a means of getting the word out.

"We hope that people look at it in context so no mother seal has to look as (her) baby seal gets clubbed," she said.

METRO CANADA

Facebook effort

- A Facebook group created by PETA to urge the Olympic committee to help end the seal hunt had 675 members by yesterday afternoon.

Charges laid in school threats

VANCOUVER A total of nine charges have been laid against a Vancouver high school student accused of posting a hit list on the Internet.

The 18-year-old Templeton secondary student was arrested May 29 after other students alerted police to the list.

Police seized a shotgun, ammunition, metal batons and a machete from his home.

Police say the student is now facing three weapons counts, including possessing a firearm without a licence, two counts of assault with a weapon and four counts of uttering threats.

His name has not been released because some of the alleged offences occurred while he was still a youth.

The alleged hit list posted on Facebook contained the names of 117 people, including other students and teachers at his school.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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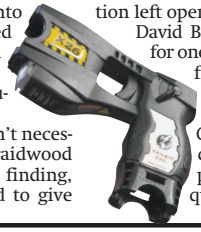
Alberta woman swims frigid lake to prep for English Channel

An Alberta woman endured six hours in a frigid B.C. lake on the weekend to prepare for an even longer — and chillier — ordeal to come. Allison Donelon, 18, swam 25 kilometres across Okanagan Lake near Kelowna, B.C., Saturday as a qualifier for a swim across the English Channel in August. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Mounties seek to limit Taser inquiry

Lawyers for the four RCMP officers involved in Robert Dziekanski's death are trying to prevent a public inquiry from making findings of misconduct against them.

Inquiry commissioner Thomas Braidwood has told the four Mounties he may make findings of misconduct when he writes his report into what happened when Dziekanski was stunned with a Taser at Vancouver's airport.



The notice doesn't necessarily mean Braidwood will make such a finding, but he is required to give notice if he wants the option left open.

David Butcher, lawyer for one of the four officers, says he will argue in B.C. Supreme Court on Friday that a provincial inquiry doesn't have authority to make findings of misconduct against federal police officers.

The actions of the four officers came under heavy scrutiny at the inquiry, which wrapped up testimony last month and will finish with closing submissions in a few weeks.

The officers testified they stunned the Polish immigrant several times with a Taser because he was aggressive and threatening them with a stapler. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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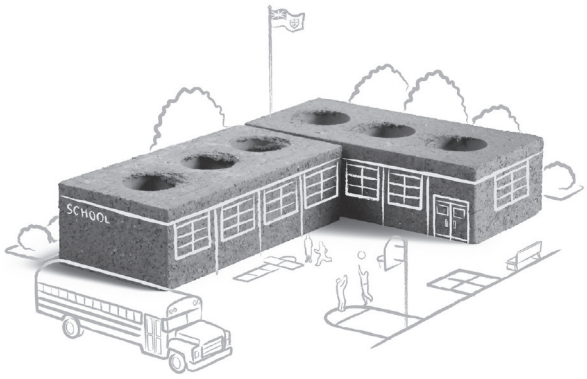

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Ontario

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N.S. election boils down to change: Dexter

VOTE Nova Scotia NDP Leader Darrell Dexter says tomorrow's provincial election will boil down to whether voters want "genuine change."

Campaigning in the traditional Conservative stronghold of Truro-Bible Hill, Dexter maintains there is a "momentum for change itself" that can be felt as he travels from riding to riding.

He says people are not satisfied with the government they have had, particularly over the last three years under Conservative Premier Rodney MacDonald.

Darrell Dexter

Dexter says he feels the idea of change even trumps concerns over the state of the economy.

He says each of the main parties have taken positions of "merit" on the economy and voters will have to decide who will best deliver on their promises to turn things around.

Dexter says if his party forms a government, it will be because of a gradual process of growth, especially in areas of Nova Scotia where the NDP experienced little success before. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Royal gift is main attraction

PUPPY A 16-month-old yellow Labrador retriever stole the attention away from Prince Edward yesterday as he gave her to the RCMP as a gift before he left Calgary after a three-day visit.

The dog, named Suzanna, remained silent during the presentation, but strained at her leash and sniffed the entire entourage to the amusement of the audience.

"Why Suzanna? There was a book written many years ago by Muriel Denison called Susannah of the Mounties, which became really quite a popular book," the prince explained. "It was the name that the Queen instantly recalled as being a name that might work quite well."

Suzanna is to be trained as a bomb-sniffing dog at the RCMP canine training centre in Alberta.

The plan is to have her ready for the 2010 Olympics. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Dog fetches owner live grenade
A dog playing fetch in the western town of Erkrath in Germany brought its owner a live U.S. hand grenade from the Second World War. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

World

High-stakes poker?

North Korea jails two U.S. female journalists

Former UN Ambassador Bill Richardson yesterday called the detention and sentencing of two young female journalists in North Korea part of "a high-stakes poker game."

But, at the same time, the New Mexico governor said the time might be right for the United States to work out the release of Laura Ling, the sister of journalist and former View co-host Lisa Ling, and Euna Lee with the country's leaders in Pyongyang.

They were both sentenced to 12 years in prison by North Korea. The North's state news agency said a court found them guilty of a "grave crime" against the country and of illegally crossing into North Korea, adding they had been sentenced to 12 years of "reform through labour."

But Richardson, who was instrumental in negotiating the release of U.S. citizens from North Korea in an incident in the 1990s, said "the good thing is that there is no charge of espionage."

He also said now that the legal process has been completed, he thinks negotiations for their "humanitarian release" can begin. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

White House

- The White House says the two U.S. journalists convicted in North Korea are innocent and the detention is a humanitarian issue.

Search Sailors recover Air France plane debris

BRAZIL'S AIR FORCE HANDOUT/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Sailors from Brazil's navy recover a large tail section from the Air France flight that crashed in the Atlantic Ocean eight days ago with 228 people on board. Search crews found eight more bodies yesterday, near where 16 others were recovered since Saturday. A U.S. Navy team was flying to Brazil with high-tech underwater listening devices to help the search for the jet's black boxes.

Gunmen kill 10 at Thai mosque

PRAYERS Police say at least 10 people were killed in southern Thailand when gunmen opened fire on a mosque during evening prayers. Police say five or six men shooting automatic rifles opened fire yesterday at the mosque in Narathiwat province.

Among those who died at the scene was the mosque's Imam, or prayer leader. Police say another 19 people were wounded, including 13 seriously.

The attack is one of the most deadly single incidents since an Islamic separatist insurgency was launched in three southernmost provinces in early 2004. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

U.S. builds up forces for new Afghan offensive

SURGE Some 7,000 of the new U.S. troops ordered to Afghanistan are fanning out across the dangerous south on a mission to defeat the Taliban insurgency and to change the course of a war claiming American lives at a record pace.

The marines represent the first wave of 21,000 troops ordered to Afghanistan this summer by U.S. President Barack Obama.

Most of the marine buildup will occur in Helmand, Afghanistan's most violent province. Helmand borders Pakistan, where the Taliban's top leadership is believed based.

"This is where the fight is ... We are here to get the job done." Iraq vet Sgt. Christopher Watson

"This is where the fight is, in Afghanistan," said 1st Sgt. Christopher Watson, who like many here has also served in Iraq. "We are here to get the job done."

The forces have brought fighter aircraft, transport helicopters, artillery and the infrastructure needed to support what will be a force of around 11,000. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Earthquake reported in Texas

Residents of a town in north-central Texas have reported hearing a clap of thunder that turned out to be an earthquake rather than stormy weather. The U.S. Geological Survey says the tremor at 8:02 a.m. yesterday registered 2.3 magnitude. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

China now No. 2 in arms spending: Report

China has become the world's second biggest military spender behind the United States, a Swedish peace research group said yesterday.

Global arms spending rose four per cent last year, but China increased its spending by 10 per cent to an estimated $84.9 billion (all figures U.S.) last year, the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute said in its annual report on world arms transfers.

"China is continuing to acquire both domestic and foreign arms as it seeks to equip its armed forces for conditions of modern 'informationalized' warfare," it said. Such warfare involves the use of precision weapons and high-tech information and communications technology.

Sam Perlo-Freeman, a researcher for the peace institute, said China had previously spent relatively little on its military.

"They are the second biggest military spender now. That does not mean they are the second strongest military power, because a lot of other countries have been at this game for a lot longer than China," Perlo-Freeman said.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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9. Saudi Arabia — 38.2
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Lebanon election bolsters Obama's push for peace

COALITION Lebanon's western-backed coalition dealt a major election setback to Hezbollah and its Syrian and Iranian backers yesterday, removing an obstacle to Barack Obama's Middle East peace push.

Coming just days after the American president reached out to the Muslim world, the vote undercuts the most militant force in Lebanese politics.

It was the first major political test in the Middle East since Obama's groundbreaking address last week, in which he challenged the Islamic world to confront violent extremism and urged Israel and the Arabs to find common ground to establish peace.

Hezbollah, which controls a militia more powerful than Lebanon's national army, has long opposed the United States' Mideast policies. A win for the Shiite group, which the U.S. government considers a terrorist organization, would have boosted the influence of its backers Iran and Syria, and risked pushing the country into international isolation and possibly more conflict with archenemy Israel.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

IRA dissidents found liable

TERROR Four IRA dissidents have been found liable for Northern Ireland's worst terrorist attack in a civil case brought by the victims' families.

A judge at Belfast High Court yesterday found Real IRA leader Michael McKevitt and three other men liable for the 1998 bombing in the market town of Omagh.

Also found liable were Liam Campbell, Colm Murphy and Seamus Daly. A fifth man, Seamus McKenna, was cleared of involvement.

The judge said the victims should get about 1.6 million pounds or about $2.87 million in damages.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Top court rejects challenge

The U.S. Supreme Court yesterday turned down a challenge to the Pentagon policy forbidding gays and lesbians from serving openly in the military, granting a request by the Obama administration.

The court said it will not hear an appeal from former U.S. Army captain James Pietrangelo, who was dismissed under the military's "don't ask, don't tell" policy. The federal appeals court in Boston earlier threw out a lawsuit filed by Pietrangelo and 11 other veterans. He was the only member of that group who asked the high court to rule that the Clinton-era policy is unconstitutional.

During last year's campaign, U.S. President Barack Obama indicated he supported the eventual repeal of the policy, but he has made no specific move to do so since taking office in January. Meanwhile, the White House has said it won't stop gays and lesbians from being dismissed from the military. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

El Nino could be on the way

WEATHER A new El Nino could be approaching. U.S. forecasters say sea-surface temperatures have been warming in the tropical Pacific Ocean, suggesting the potential for the development of the El Nino climate phenomenon this summer. A summer El Nino can lead to wetter than normal conditions in the intermountain regions of North America and over central Chile. In an El Nino year there also tend to be more Eastern Pacific hurricanes and fewer Atlantic hurricanes.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Gabonese president dies

OBIT President Omar Bongo of Gabon, the world's longest-serving leader whose 42-year rule was a throwback to an era when Africa was ruled by so-called "Big Men," has died of cardiac arrest in a Spanish hospital. He was 73. Doctors at the Quiron Clinic in Barcelona announced Bongo's death yesterday, Gabonese Prime Minister Jean Eyeghe Ndong said. Bongo had been admitted to the hospital last month.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Comment

Time is right for Grits

The doomsayers were wrong again. There's no great depression, as some were forecasting last fall. And the recession, while serious enough, will not be one of dire magnitude. Experts are now suggesting we're already past the worst of it.

"We are in the process of turning the corner," said Aron Gample, deputy chief economist at the Bank of Nova Scotia. "Bonds, stocks — every market is telling you we are at this transition from recession to recovery."

Unemployment has reached an 11-year high of 8.4 per cent. Compared to the years from the late 1970s into the 1990s when double-digit joblessness was the norm, it's hardly earth-shattering.

The relatively good news changes the political equation. A summer election has suddenly become a better bet. The Liberals are divided on the prospect, but the latest economic outlook gives the party's election hawks more ammunition. The Grits' chances of winning an election today are good. Tomorrow, who knows. The economy was supposed to be the Conservatives' death trap. Given time, it could turn into their lifeline.

"With a decent campaign, (the Liberals will) likely win."
Pollster Frank Graves

The Grits won 26 per cent of the vote the last election. They're about 10 points higher in most polls now and hold a narrow lead over the Tories. Pollster Frank Graves said in an interview if he were Liberal leader, he'd push for an election right now. "With a decent campaign, they'll likely win."

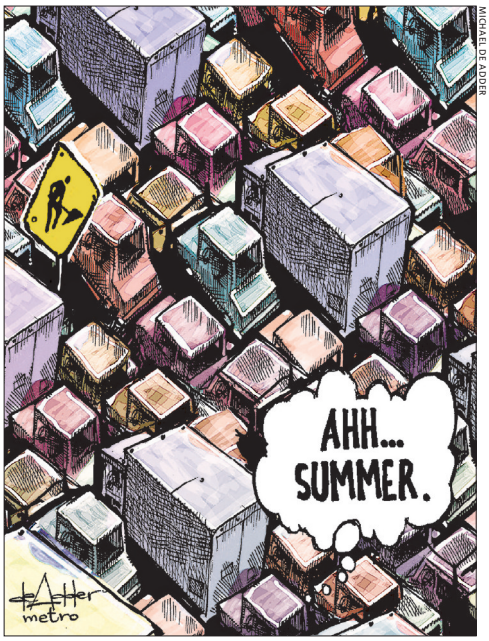
Given the changing economic tides, the Conservatives no longer fear an immediate election. It's even possible the Liberals won't need the support of the other opposition parties to force a campaign. If they signal their wish for one, Prime Minister Stephen Harper might well say, "OK, let's go."

Whether it's now or later, it's a good bet Harper will lead his troops into a fourth campaign. That prospect would have been unlikely had the economic plunge been as deep as originally expected. The new tidings mean Finance Minister Jim Flaherty, he of the bone-headed economic updates and wonky deficit forecasts, will likely stay in place as well.

Many were hoping the PM would turn to the steady Jim Prentice to take over finance. It would have positioned him as the Harper heir apparent. But Flaherty is safe and Prentice will be left holding the bag in the environment portfolio where the government's foot-dragging on a carbon emissions regime has become embarrassing.

For the prime minister to move Flaherty now would be an admission of failed economic management. That's the case the Liberals have been trying to make. It will become harder as time moves on.

Lawrence Martin is a journalist and author of 10 books who writes about national affairs from Ottawa.



MICHAEL DE ADDER

Views

Time to boost Canadian literacy rates

It's hard to talk about the skills shortage at a time when people are losing their jobs. But the evidence is clear, in spite of the economic downturn, that the combination of our aging population and reduced fertility rates means Canada is facing an acute skills shortages.

Investing in education, at all levels, remains fundamental to our future economic prosperity. Attention has been focused on the fact that Canada ranks lower than other countries at the highest levels of skills attainment, producing fewer PhDs and graduates in sciences, business and engineering. However, the strongest determinant of our prosperity as a nation is rates of literacy.

Just more than a year ago, a report, Literacy Matters, by TD Financial Group estimated the Canadian economy could enjoy a $32-billion boost if literacy rates were improved by only one per cent.

Statistics Canada reports that more than seven million Canadian adults can barely read and comprehend simple printed materials, and more than 25 per cent of Canadian high school graduates lack the literacy skills needed for entry-level jobs.

High school dropouts or graduates with minimal skills — immigrants, particularly women; people with learning disabilities; aboriginal people; and francophones — have lower than average rates. Many develop coping skills to mask their inability to read.

Often, illiteracy creates a vicious cycle of poverty and underachievement. Parents who cannot read to their children cannot help them with their homework or as easily inspire them to achieve. If you are not literate enough to use simple manuals, you probably can't use the Internet and you most certainly are not going to be part of the "new" economy. Illiteracy also carries significant social costs and is associated with poorer health and higher rates of crime.

The costs of investing in education are dwarfed by the costs of illiteracy.

Like my university colleagues, I want investments in research and in graduate programs. But we must lay a solid foundation in addressing basic skills for all Canadians. It is not simply a matter of developing the "pipeline" to higher education or of equality and social justice, it is founded on a solid business case and our prosperity depends on it.

As Literacy Matters: A Call For Action notes: "It is hard to identify any other single issue that can have such a large payoff to individuals, the economy and society than literacy."

Wendy Cukier is the associate dean of the Ted Rogers School of Management at Ryerson University, and the founder of Ryerson's Diversity Institute.

Worth mentioning

Michelle Obama wins over Paris fashion fans

Michelle Obama, whom French fashionistas regard as the best-dressed American first lady since Jackie Kennedy, lived up to her sartorial reputation during her trip to Paris, sporting a wardrobe of fashion-forward classics by top American designers.

But the woman who put unstuffy retailers like J. Crew on the fashion map also showed a weakness for high-end fashion "a la francaise," taking her two daughters on a private shopping trip to the exclusive children's couture house Bonpoint.

Mrs. Obama's visit to the City of Light was widely billed as a rematch of the "duel of charm" that pitted her in a glamour contest against France's first lady, the former supermodel-turned-singer Carla Bruni-Sarkozy.

The two faced off before the cameras only once during Mrs. Obama's latest visit, from Friday through yesterday. For D-Day commemorations in Normandy, the first ladies chose strikingly similar looks, both in creamy white, knee-length dresses with contrasting belts and kitten heels.

French fashion weekly Elle said the two looked like "twin sisters" and hailed their "sophisticated, feminine" 1950s-era looks as "a success: We want more!"

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Metro Online Poll Results

73% SAID YES	Should Canada retaliate against Buy American provisions? *Weigh in on today's question at metronews.ca*	27% SAID NO

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PCs sold in China now need filtering software

China is requiring personal computers sold in the country to carry the Green Dam-Youth Escort filtering software that blocks on-line pornography and other websites. Users, however, can unblock sites or uninstall the software. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Business

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EDITOR: FERMIN.DESOUZA@METRONEWS.CA

Business in **brief**

CHRYSLER U.S. government officials are asking the Supreme Court to allow the sale of most of Chrysler's assets to Italy's Fiat without further delay, opposing a request from the three Indiana state pension and construction funds to halt the deal.

FUEL-SAVING American Airlines will test fuel-saving technology and tactics on a Paris-to-Miami flight Thursday. The plane will take a direct route guided by GPS instead of staying within the usual jetliner highways. It will ascend and descend more gradually and taxi out to the runway on one engine. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Silver lining for jobs

Public administration still hiring, survey shows

Toronto will face a "conservative hiring climate" during the July-to-September period, with public administration employers appearing the most optimistic, the latest Manpower Employment Outlook Survey suggests.

Jobs with local, provincial and federal governments — such as in the court system, correctional institutions and social services — is expected to lead hiring across Ontario and even Canada during the third quarter of 2009.

Lori Rogers, vice-president of staffing services for Manpower Canada, says public administration jobs are poised to be a rare "silver lining" in Ontario's hard-hit labour market. The sector has a "net employment outlook" of nine per cent for all of Canada.

The study also suggests employers in finance, insurance and real estate foresee a "mild" third quarter with net employment outlooks of five per cent for Ontario and eight per cent for Toronto.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Where jobs went

- Ontario's unemployment rate hit 9.4 per cent in May. The province lost 60,000 jobs.
- Nationally, 42,000 jobs vanished in May, pushing the jobless rate to 8.4 per cent.
- Public sector employment rose by 27,000 jobs.

Bottom in sight for housing market, new figures suggest

BOTTOM The housing market, still slow with a recovery not yet on the horizon, seems to have something of a bottom in sight.

Canadian housing construction bounced back in May after dropping to a 13-year low in April, according to the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation yesterday, with housing starts hitting 128,400 in May, up from 117,600 in the prior month.

However, despite the positive figures this month, the fact remains that starts are still down significantly by 42 per cent in year-to-date figures compared to last year at both the national and Toronto area levels.

35% Housing starts rebounded strongly in the Toronto area market, up by 35 per cent in April to 22,000 units, mostly due to the multiple family segment that includes condominiums and apartment buildings.

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Your Money

EDITOR: NINA.DRAGICEVIC@METRONEWS.CA

Closed wallet, open mind

Use your imagination for cheap or free thrills this summer

AlisonOnMoney

Hey! What happened to deflation? It was the scary economic spectre raised as the world slipped over the brink of recession last year.

With deflation, prices and wages fall — what a concept. We've had the latter but not much of the former.

Movie tickets are as high as ever — don't get me started on popcorn. Concerts and plays too. And I haven't noticed many golf courses offering discounts.

So if girls or guys just want to have fun, can you do it without running up the tab? Absolutely. In summer, antique shows and flea markets are a blast. Even kids love to wander through the ancient stuff Mum and Dad used to play with or wear. Take a picnic and you have a great day trip. Big malls often offer an antiquing week with parking and admission free.

You can contact Airport Watch for a unique, visceral thrill.

Farmer's markets are a lovely way to spend a weekend morning. You have to buy vegetables anyway, why not add value to the experience and support a local farmer at the same time?

The best people watching is in Venice Beach, Calif., but every city has at least one good spot to exercise your eyeballs. From waterfront parks to trendy shopping streets, you'll find the biggest reality show in the world.

Try an entire summer without renting a DVD.

Alison's Money Rule:

- Once you stop associating value with cost you will realize some of the best things in life really are free — or close to it.

Yes, you can do it! Instead, get them free from the library. You'll uncover some gems like the BBC's witty and completely un-hip Monarch of the Glen series.

And if you want completely something off the wall, hit the local airport with folks from an Airport Watch group. Many cities have such members that park themselves with binoculars and lawn chairs in landing and take-off flight paths. It's a completely different and visceral thrill.

Send me your cheap entertainment tips and we'll get an online list started.

Alison Griffiths is a financial journalist, author and host of Maxed Out on the W Network. Write to her at alison@alisongriffiths.ca.

MoneyMatters

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Colorado - National Parks & Trains
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Beware: Liability insurance may fall short outside of Canada

A 2008 RBC Insurance/Ipsos Reid survey showed that only 38 per cent of Canadians checked the impact of their coverage with their auto insurance provider when they drove to the United States.

According to Statistics Canada, same-day car travel to the U.S. increased six per cent over the past six months, up to 1.7 million trips. Whether you're cross-border shopping or on a short business trip, you may not be aware of the serious financial risks associated with driving to the U.S. without adequate auto insurance.

If you have a car accident in the U.S. in which you're at fault and injure several people, your liability insurance coverage could be used up quickly, even if you had $1 million in coverage. Liability insurance covers you when you are liable for causing personal injury or property damage and a claim is made against you.

In many U.S. jurisdictions, the ability to sue is not restricted to serious injuries and liability settlements can be extremely high.

Awards made to automobile victims are not limited by the level of liability coverage of the person at fault. Once the damages reach the insurable limit, an at-fault driver would be responsible for the amount of the award that is in excess of the limit.

Consult your insurance provider or visit rbcinsurance.com for more information. NEWS CANADA

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Favre told to make up his mind

The Minnesota Vikings reportedly have told Brett Favre to decide this week if he wants to play this year. ESPN says coach Brad Childress imposed the deadline on the star quarterback. The network cited two unidentified sources yesterday on its website. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Sports

Nadal's knees tested

Rafael Nadal, left, is having his knees checked by doctors and an announcement on his status for Wimbledon is expected in the coming days. Nadal's website says the reigning Wimbledon champion was undergoing medical tests yesterday and today. Nadal withdrew from this week's Wimbledon tuneup citing knee trouble. METRO NEWS SERVICES

EDITOR: CHRIS.CLEMENTS@METRONEWS.CA

Blue Jays Rios catches a fly

MATT SUCHUM/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Toronto right-fielder Alex Rios hits the wall after catching a deep fly ball hit by Texas Rangers' Marlon Byrd last night. For a complete game recap, visit metronews.ca/sports.

Overbay honoured

Toronto first baseman Lyle Overbay was named American League player of the week yesterday, becoming the second Blue Jay to win the award in a four-week span.

Overbay batted a major-league-best .533 for the week (8-for-15) with two homers, eight RBIs and a 1.200 slugging percentage. He took a 13-game hitting streak into Toronto's series opener last night against the Texas Rangers.

Overbay's honour comes on the heels of ace pitcher Roy Halladay winning the award in May. Halladay was a nominee for last week's award after going 2-0 with two complete games and 20 strikeouts in two outings.

Other American League nominees included Jays teammate Adam Lind, who led the American League in hits and doubles last week; Oakland outfielder Matt Holliday, who scored seven runs and drove in nine; and Athletics pitcher Vin Mazzaro, who threw 13⅔ scoreless innings to begin his major-league career.

Colorado Rockies utility man Ian Stewart took home National League honours after batting .480 (12-for-25) with four homers and 12 RBIs. Other nominees included Cincinnati's Laynce Nix (.321, 3 HR, 8 RBIs) and San Francisco's Randy Johnson, who became the 24th pitcher to reach the 300-win plateau. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Sports in brief

GOLF John Daly makes his return to the PGA Tour from his six-month suspension this week. His return to the U.S. Open will have to wait. Daly managed only four birdies over 36 holes in a U.S. Open qualifier yesterday and didn't come close to getting one of the 13 spots available in Tennessee.

HOCKEY The Anaheim Ducks signed right-wing Mike Brown to a two-year contract extension yesterday, allowing the team to keep a reliable penalty killer. Terms were not disclosed. The 23-year-old Brown was acquired at this year's trade deadline from Vancouver.

VIRUS Two players were forced to sit out a top flight Australian rugby league match yesterday and at least nine others were quarantined after a player tested positive for influenza A (H1N1), also known as swine flu, National Rugby League officials said. All members of the Queensland Origin team were placed in quarantine and will remain so for 72 hours. METRO NEWS SERVICES

TFC's backfield delivered another blow

SOCCER Toronto FC's beleaguered defensive corps just got more bad news.

With the right ankle of left back and team captain Jim Brennan still swollen and fellow defender Nana Attakora continuing to suffer from post-concussion symptoms, the Major League Soccer club announced yesterday that Marvell Wynne has been named to the U.S. national team playing in the Confederations Cup next week.

Wynne, who has missed the last two TFC games for World Cup qualifying, will now be lost at least two more and could be away for much of July if he's also named to the U.S. team for the Gold Cup.

"Yes, there's going to be a lot of issues at the back," midfielder Carl Robinson said of a lineup that might be missing three of the four regular defenders when TFC hosts the New York Red Bulls Saturday.

"And maybe I'm waiting for that call to say will I play there."

Last Saturday, with Wynne away and Attakora out after hitting his head earlier in the week in a loss in Vancouver, Marco Velez and Kevin Harmse (usually a midfielder) started at the back. The L.A. Galaxy scored five minutes in when Velez lost track of Alan Gordon on a corner kick and the striker headed it in.

Early in the second half, Brennan was forced to come off after challenging for a ball along the sideline, coming down on the black mat running beside the pitch and rolling over on his right ankle. In the 77th minute, L.A.'s Edson Buddle was able to get in behind the defence, run onto a Gordon through ball and put in the game-winner.

Head coach Chris Cummins admits Wynne's continued loss will hurt.

"It's not until players are not there that you realize how much you miss them," Cummins said of Wynne and leading scorer Amado Guevara, who is due back after being away with the Honduran national team.

"It (missing guys) gives other players a chance to come in and take that opportunity," he said. "Have they done that? Probably not."

But a lack of depth almost guarantees Velez and Harmse will start at the back Saturday. And, if Attakora again cannot play, 18-year-old Emmanuel Gomez, who debuted in the final four minutes against L.A., might get his first start. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Real Madrid ticket info

- A seat at BMO Field to see storied soccer franchise Real Madrid won't come cheap.

Toronto FC announced its ticket prices yesterday for the team's Aug. 9 match with the Spanish powerhouse, with prices ranging from $140 to $215.

Toronto FC season seat holders have the opportunity to buy tickets as of June 15 at a slight discount, starting at $125.

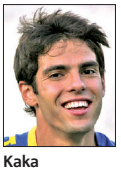
Non-season seat holders can purchase tickets online beginning June 22. THE CANADIAN PRESS

It's Called Football is joined by Canadian 'keeper Pat Onstad, who, despite reports, says he has not retired from international soccer. Watch it at: metronews.ca/blogs

Real Madrid picks up AC Milan's Kaka

SOCCER Real Madrid has announced the signing of Brazilian star Kaka from AC Milan.

Madrid gave no financial details but reports yesterday said the Spanish club will pay Milan the equivalent of $101 million US for the attacking midfielder, making it one of the richest deals in soccer history.



Kaka

The largest previous transfer was set by Zinedine Zidane when he joined Madrid from Juventus for $65 million in 2001.

Kaka, who passed a medical in the northeastern Brazilian city of Recife earlier yesterday, has signed a six-year contract. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Ortiz's eyes are fine

David Ortiz's vision has checked out very well as the Boston Red Sox try to help him out of his season-long slump. The designated hitter received drops for dry eyes, a team spokesperson said. Ortiz has two homers and 22 RBIs with a .197 batting average in 51 games. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Pens' defining moment

Stanley Cup
2009 **Final**

This is a defining moment for the Pittsburgh Penguins.

Sidney Crosby, Evgeni Malkin and Marc-Andre Fleury are now the cornerstones of the franchise and a big piece of this team's history will be written in Game 6 of the Stanley Cup final tonight.

Trailing the Detroit Red Wings 3-2 for the second year in a row, they're trying to avoid watching the visitors parade the championship trophy around Mellon Arena once again. It's going to take a big effort to keep it from happening.

"I like it being a defining moment," Penguins coach Dan Bylsma said yesterday. "You know, moments like this define where you're at at that particular time. Everyone in that room should be ready to play their best game and make a difference in the game by playing their part, by doing what we do as a team. And that's the challenge ...

BRUCE BENNETT/GETTY IMAGES

Pittsburgh's Sidney Crosby shoots a puck at yesterday's practice in preparation for tonight's Game 6 of the Stanley Cup final.

"Everyone in that room should be ready to play their best game."
Dan Bylsma, Pittsburgh coach

"We need a defining game."

The last team to lose two straight Stanley Cups was Don Cherry's Boston Bruins in 1977 and 1978. Both of the losses came at the hands of the Montreal Canadiens and were decided at the old Boston Garden.

Seeing the Red Wings have another celebration on their home ice is something the Penguins desperately want to avoid.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Coyotes decision may come soon

PHOENIX The Detroit Red Wings can win the Stanley Cup for the second straight season tonight, but their clash with the Pittsburgh Penguins may not even be the biggest game of the day in the hockey world.

Hours before the puck drops in Game 6 of the final, the latest battle over the future of the Phoenix Coyotes between the NHL and Jim Balsillie, who is seeking to buy the insolvent team for $212.5 million US and move it to Hamilton despite the league's opposition, will play out in an Arizona bankruptcy court.

It's unclear when Judge Redfield T. Baum intends to rule on what has become a bitter court fight or how it will turn out, but he's said the decision will come quickly. It's also uncertain if his word will be the final one.

Both sides can appeal his decision, potentially extending the matter for months. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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TORONTO at Texas
Detroit 5 Chi. White Sox 4 (Gm 1)
N.Y. Yankees 5 Tampa Bay 3
Detroit at Chi. White Sox (Gm 2)
Minnesota at Oakland

NATIONAL LEAGUE
YESTERDAY
Colorado 5 St. Louis 2
Florida 4 San Francisco 0
Pittsburgh at Atlanta
Arizona at San Diego

NHL

TODAY
Detroit at Pittsburgh
FRIDAY
x-Pittsburgh at Detroit

NBA

TODAY
L.A. Lakers at Orlando
THURSDAY
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Canadian lefty may go in first round of baseball entry draft

MLB There's a lot to like about a 6-foot-4 lefty who tops out at 97 m.p.h. on the radar gun, and that's why James Paxton is expected to extend an unprecedented run for Canadians in the baseball draft.

The 20-year-old from Ladner, B.C., is being projected as a mid- to late-first round pick this evening when the annual replenishment of big-league farm systems takes place.

Paxton would become the seventh Canadian ever taken in the first round, and make it three years in a row a player from north of the border has been taken that high.

"That makes me feel pretty good. It's a great honour to be at the top of the Canadian list," Paxton said in a recent interview. "There are a lot of great young guys coming up, guys I played with on the junior national team, guys in college.

"Guys are starting to get seen a lot more, too. It's great."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

1st-round Canucks

- Right-hander Phillippe Aumont of Gatineau, Que., was taken 11th overall by the Seattle Mariners in 2007 while Milwaukee Brewers slugger Brett Lawrie of Langley, B.C., was the 16th pick last year.
- Shortstop Kevin Nicholson (San Diego, 1997), first baseman Scott Thorman (Atlanta, 2000), pitchers Adam Loewen (Baltimore, 2002) and Jeff Francis (Colorado, 2002) are the other Canadian first-rounders.

Kobe says Lakers ready to 'kick it up'

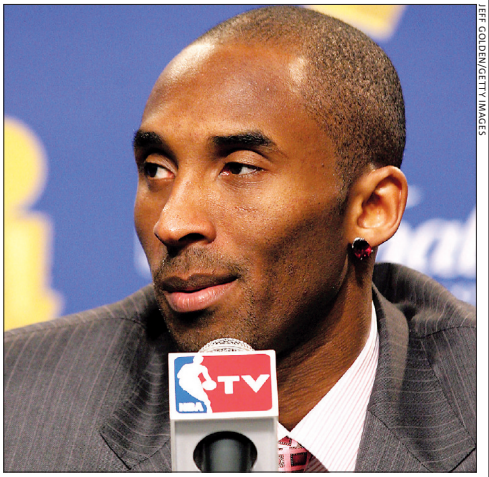
NBA
2009 **Finals**

BASKETBALL Kobe Bryant has changed his look.

Gone is the teeth-baring, nose-flaring, eyes-on-the-prize scowl the Los Angeles Lakers star showed again and again in Game 1 of the NBA finals. The intensity diminished after Game 2, his expression becoming one of relief and sheer luck.

A botched layup by Magic rookie Courtney Lee is perhaps the biggest reason why these finals are not tied and why Bryant isn't smiling, even with his team up 2-0. That level of seriousness might be cause for Orlando to grimace.

The Magic nearly returned from Los Angeles with the best-of-seven series tied. Instead, they're down 2-0, and now Bryant has a promise for Game 3 tonight.



JEFF GOLDEN/GETTY IMAGES

Kobe Bryant of the Los Angeles Lakers says he and his teammates are ready to step up their game tonight.

"We're about to kick it up," he said. "You'd better believe it. We're close. You see what I'm saying? This is the finals. We're going to be ready to go."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Canadian NCAA champ honoured by Nicklaus

GOLF Canadian Matt Hill, the North Carolina sophomore who won the NCAA golf championship last month, was presented with the Jack Nicklaus award over the weekend.

The honour is given each year to the best U.S. college players in NCAA Division I, II and III.

Nicklaus handed out the awards Sunday before the final round of the Memorial, the PGA Tour event he hosts.

Hill, a native of Bright's Grove, Ont., who is fourth in the world amateur rankings, claimed a two-stroke victory at the NCAA championship at the Inverness Country Club in Toledo, Ohio, in late May. It was his eighth victory of the season and seventh win in his last eight tournaments.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Magpies officially on the block

Newcastle has confirmed owner Mike Ashley wants 100 million pounds ($178 million Cdn) for the club after it was relegated from the English Premier League. The sportswear tycoon took the team off the market last December due to a lack of suitable offers, but is now willing to cut his losses. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Quinn itching for coaching return

LAURENCE HEINEN
for Metro Canada

After a seven-year stint as head coach of the Toronto Maple Leafs, Pat Quinn thought about retirement.

"I wasn't that anxious about getting back in," Quinn said of his mindset after being fired by the Leafs following a disappointing 2006 season when Toronto missed the playoffs.

Quinn, who averaged 43 wins a season during his Toronto tenure, took some time to assess his future and found himself itching to get behind the bench less than a year after being let go.

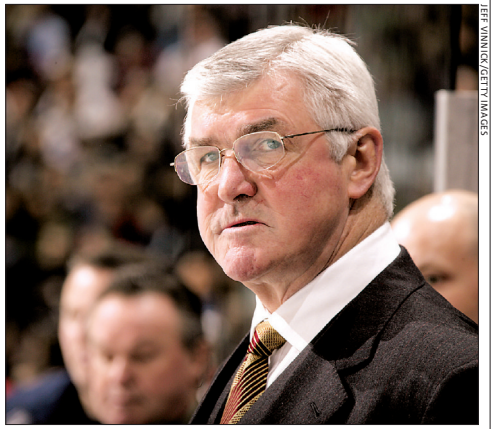
"By February, I figured, geez, I miss this," said Quinn, who was recently hired as head coach of the Edmonton Oilers. "I wasn't ready for retirement. I started to let it be known that if anybody might be interested in a good coach that I'd be willing to talk to them."

Quinn went on to coach Canada to gold medals at the 2008 world under-18 hockey championships in Kazan, Russia, and the 2009 world junior hockey championships in Ottawa.

"He's one of those coaches that just sort of stands out," said L.A. Kings prospect Thomas Hickey, Team Canada's captain in Ottawa. "He's a very high pedigree and he's very well respected so it was neat to be one of his players."

With assistance from associate coach Tom Renney, Quinn is looking forward to getting the most out of Edmonton's young talent.

"We're going to spend our next two months, three months deciding on a system of play that can help our guys be the best they can be," said the 66-year-old bench boss, who won the Jack Adams Award as the NHL's top coach in both 1980 with the Philadelphia Flyers and in 1992 with the Vancouver Canucks. "We'll find that. We'll work together and we'll see what we can do and we'll give them the best we can to have some good results at the end of the day."



JEFF VINNICK/GETTY IMAGES

After realizing he wasn't ready for retirement, Pat Quinn made it known he was ready to coach at a high level again. Now the man with a career coaching record of 657-481-154-26 in the NHL will try to turn around the Edmonton Oilers.

Sports in brief

SALE English Premier League club West Ham was taken over by a government-controlled Icelandic bank yesterday. A moratorium on West Ham chairman Bjorgolfur Gudmundsson's debts was set to expire, so Straumur Burdaras Investment Bank assumed ownership of the club after having provided the finance for its 2006 takeover.

PLEA A defence lawyer entered pleas of not guilty on behalf of a Southern California man charged with killing Los Angeles Angels pitcher Nick Adenhart and two others in a drunken-driving crash. Defendant Andrew Thomas Gallo watched yesterday as lawyer Randall Longwith entered the pleas in Orange County Superior Court. The 22-year-old Gallo is charged with three counts of murder and other felonies in the April 9 crash.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Learning Curve is a monthly feature that focuses on education and student life.
Next month's issue comes out on July 14.

Learning Curve

SPECIAL FEATURES EDITOR: STEPHANIE.BOMBA@METRONEWS.CA

Skills, success linked

More turning to professional development to get ahead

RAFAEL BRUSILOW
for Metro Canada

As business continues to move faster, more people and companies are investing in professional development training to ensure critical skills keep pace with the speed of change.

Professional development, sometimes considered the sole domain of higher-ups and bigwigs in corner offices, is becoming increasingly relevant — and crucial — in a business environment where more young people are being promoted to supervisory positions than ever before and specialized skills take centre stage in the working world. Examples of professional development include mentorship and apprenticeship programs, leadership training and learning or improving work-related skills that can take your skills to the next level or help you excel in a new, challenging position.

Barbara Dickson, director of custom programs for executive development at Queen's University in Kingston, says people are realizing that increased success in the workplace is not only a result of working harder, but working better as well.

"There's a direct correlation between personal improvement and results — there are functional things you can teach to boost skills," she said.

Dickson says more people are taking professional development studies proactively to make themselves more marketable to potential employers in a measurable way and to show they excel in a wide range of skills, since multi-tasking is key in today's business climate.

"Traditional hierarchies are no longer effective in achieving results — businesses need collaboration to succeed," Dickson said.

Gord Vaxvick, a continuing education consultant at the Saskatchewan Institute of Applied Science and Technology (SIAST), says professional development courses focusing on supervisory training are in particularly high demand.

Changing business and social climates have made proper management training even more crucial, he says, because today's employees demand a more constructive style of management that is less about commanding people and more about motivating them to excel.

"I think that employees' expectations have changed as well — supervision is no longer just about barking orders and being obeyed, it's a matter of using interpersonal skills to influence employees to do what is best for the company," he said.

Examples of professional development include leadership training, and mentorship and apprenticeship programs.

In trade and business fields, Vaxvick is seeing a sharp increase in the level of responsibilities young people are being tasked with taking on, resulting in a need for management training.

"Most people are promoted to a supervisory position because they have strong technical skills — it's assumed they have strong interpersonal skills as well. That's why coaching and mentoring is increasingly important," Vaxvick said.

George Brown eyes two new post-grad certificates for nurses

EVA LAM
for Metro Canada

Upgrading your skills can give you a leg up in any industry, and health care is no exception. Soon, registered nurses looking to boost their knowledge will have more options thanks to the introduction of two new post-graduate certificate programs at George Brown College.

The family practice nursing certificate and the pediatric cardiology nursing certificate, both of which the school hopes to launch in January, will be one-of-a-kind programs that allow RNs to hone their skills in specialized areas.

"(We) looked at what was available in specialized education for family practice nurses and there was really nothing in Ontario for them," says Dianne Diniz, chair of the nursing program. "There are about 19 family practice units across Ontario, as well as a number of independent family practice units, so the capacity for filling the program was there."

Diniz says the one-semester family practice program will combine theory and practice. Students will observe and work in a family practice/primary care environment with the interprofessional members of the team, ranging from the family practice nurse to the nutritionist and physician.

As with the family practice program, the two-semester pediatric cardiology program is both for nurses who are already employed and for nurses who are interested in working in that particular discipline.

"It could be for any RN currently working at Sick Kids that may want to advance their knowledge in cardiology," says Diniz. "Or (it could be) for a new RN who wants to enhance their knowledge before they get a job in a high-risk pediatric environment."

The program, which will include a work-study component, is being developed in collaboration with the Hospital for Sick Children and will likely be offered at the hospital, says Diniz.

Both the family practice and pediatric cardiology programs will be considered full time but include online and weekend delivery to accommodate nurses' day jobs and those working in rural parts of the province.

They join three other post-graduate certificates for RNs that George Brown currently offers: Critical care, perinatal intensive care and operating room perioperative. The school also provides professional development opportunities for other types of healthcare workers, including a unique personal support worker pathways program that bridges to the practical nursing program.

The aim when launching new programs is to address both a need and an interest, says Diniz.

"These specialized areas have now come to realize that they need their nursing staff well-trained in a post-graduate environment," she says.

"(And) certainly what we are finding right now is that new grads are looking for specialized knowledge just to build their comfort level and their capacity."

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Bolster skills at Ryerson's bootcamp

Career opportunities in project management are very broad and can be applied to almost any industry.

BRIAN COULTON
for Metro Canada

When school's out for the summer, kids may spend their days at summer camp. But when work's out for, well, who knows how long, adults might want to consider heading to bootcamp.

Ryerson University's The G. Raymond Chang School of Continuing Education is targeting the recently unemployed and workers who wish to bolster their skills with its new, intensive Project Management Bootcamp.

The six-week program will provide students six of eight required courses for a certificate in project management, the final two to be completed after the bootcamp in one of three specialized areas: Architecture, engineering and construction; business and information management; or community and health services management.

"The market is tough out there, I realize, but there still seems to be jobs for project managers," said Peter Monkhouse, the school's engineering, architecture and science program director. "We're getting a lot of interest from people who are between jobs in this recession, and who have either worked on projects or are interested in moving into project management."

From building structures through re-engineering business processes to launching new products and services, Monkhouse said career opportunities in project management are very broad and can be applied to almost any industry.

"All organizations will use projects as some part of their business," he said. "(Project management) does help individuals who may be in a specific industry that is hit harder by this recession transition into an industry that is looking to grow."

The bootcamp will also help students prepare to write their Project Management Professional (PMP) exam, a test governed by the Project Management Institute, an international membership organization Monkhouse said is well respected among project management practitioners. It's also a benefit not afforded to students who enrol in the school's non-intensive project management program, which could take two to three years to complete, he said.

While Monkhouse taps the bootcamp's compressed timeframe as its greatest advantage, he also acknowledges how the model restricts time for reflection. "That would be the disadvantage — that you don't have that time to have the knowledge you gain sort of settle in your mind."

But for those out of work who aren't receiving regular paycheques, Monkhouse said the format is particularly ideal. "For people who want to get this knowledge quickly, so they can get back into the workforce and start contributing to society, this will allow them to do that. It really gives them a leg up."

Corporate trainers can ease stress at work

JON TATTRIE
for Metro Canada

As the recession chews on the job market, stress levels rise at a time when success is harder and more important than ever. Many businesses are turning to corporate trainers to ease the pressure and increase performance.

Bernadette Smith, vice-president of learning solutions for the Canadian Management Centre, provides management and leadership-development training at all levels. CMC works from Halifax to Vancouver to the Yukon, and has offices around the globe.

"If you're talking about a new manager, one of the important things is helping them transition from an individual contributor role to managing people, potentially their peers," she explains. "We create self-awareness so they know what their styles are and how they impact people around them. In so doing, we allow them to develop appropriate communication skills so they can deliver their messages with impact."

Much of the training is designed to improve staff performance, via setting expectations, creating constructive dialogues and coaching message-delivery to maximize results. High-performing individuals build up to high-performing businesses, Smith says.

"The difference is results. Ultimately, by equipping employees with skills and knowledge, it helps them to perform their jobs better ... and delivers the results required by the organization."

Corporate trainers can tailor sessions to a particular company, using the firm's procedures and case studies. "They are given the opportunity to build those skills right in the classroom and apply them directly to their job once they leave the training. Rather than having employees make their own connections of what they're learning to their jobs, we make that process easier by creating their environment in the classroom."

For their facilitators, it's a lateral career move. Most first achieve a reputation in their business field and are then recruited to lead courses — it's not something people set out with as a career ambition.

Alice Waife founded Ontario's ARMI to focus on anger-management training. "Organizations will send their employees over to us if they're struggling with communication and aggression issues," she says.

Corporate training can improve performance as well as ease stress.

The first step is identifying aggressive employees, including managers. HR people and management aren't necessarily trained in psychology and may find themselves out of their depth in dealing with serious problems.

"It takes away the ignorance of not knowing how to skillfully deal with such conflicts. We find there is a huge benefit ... for the bottom line of the business."

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French chef Leroy officially a Master

NOELLE MUNARETTO
for Metro Canada

Chef Didier Leroy is unabashedly honest when it comes to revealing his culinary inspirations. He dashes into the kitchen at his eponymous restaurant, Didier, and in a matter of seconds, returns with a small leather-bound book.

The pages, stained, faded and splitting apart, describe hundreds of authentic French dishes. This 36-year-old dictionary of classic cuisine, along with perseverance and creativity, helped Leroy become one of Toronto's most respected French chefs.

So well respected, both nationally and internationally, that Leroy recently received the title of Master Chef of France, (Maître-Cuisinier de France), by the Association of the Master Chefs of France. To date, he is only one of three chefs in Canada to have been given this distinction.

"I cried," said Leroy, reflecting on hearing the news of his accomplishment. "You know, tears of happiness."

Becoming a Master Chef isn't just about belonging to an elite association of culinary masterminds. It means devoting one's career not only to the preservation of classic French cooking, but also staying focused on professional development and encouraging training in cuisine.

Leroy, who graduated from Paris' École Hôtelière Médéric, continued to hone his culinary skills even as a top chef in Michelin-starred restaurants.

"We still went to school as a chef in France," he said. "We never stopped studying."

After moving to Canada in 1988, and working at famed restaurants like Opus, Auberge Gavroche and The Fifth, Leroy is still a firm believer in the benefits of constant training.

"When you challenge and surpass yourself, it is not like a job," said Leroy. "The joy starts with you, and I think my job is the best job in the world."

Aside from attending culinary workshops and events both overseas and in the United States, Leroy also reads whatever he can find on the finer points of French cuisine. He also enjoys learning from other Master Chefs.

"It's like a big family. You go with all of these guys who have so much experience, who do the most beautiful things on the plate," said Leroy.

The next item on Leroy's professional menu is all about encouraging and inspiring youth interested in the culinary arts. He said he eventually plans on opening a school in Toronto dedicated to producing well-rounded professional cooks.

"The idea is to be able to guide young people into the right spot in their lives," he said of his love for mentoring beginners in the kitchen. "You will always be learning because if you give the light to someone else, you see, too."

Master Chef Didier Leroy looks at the award of Les Maîtres-Cuisiners de France with some of his friends.

DANETO PHOTOS

Didier Leroy is one of just three chefs in Canada to have been given the distinction of Master Chef of France.

"When you challenge and surpass yourself, it is not like a job. The joy starts with you, and I think my job is the best job in the world." Master Chef Didier Leroy

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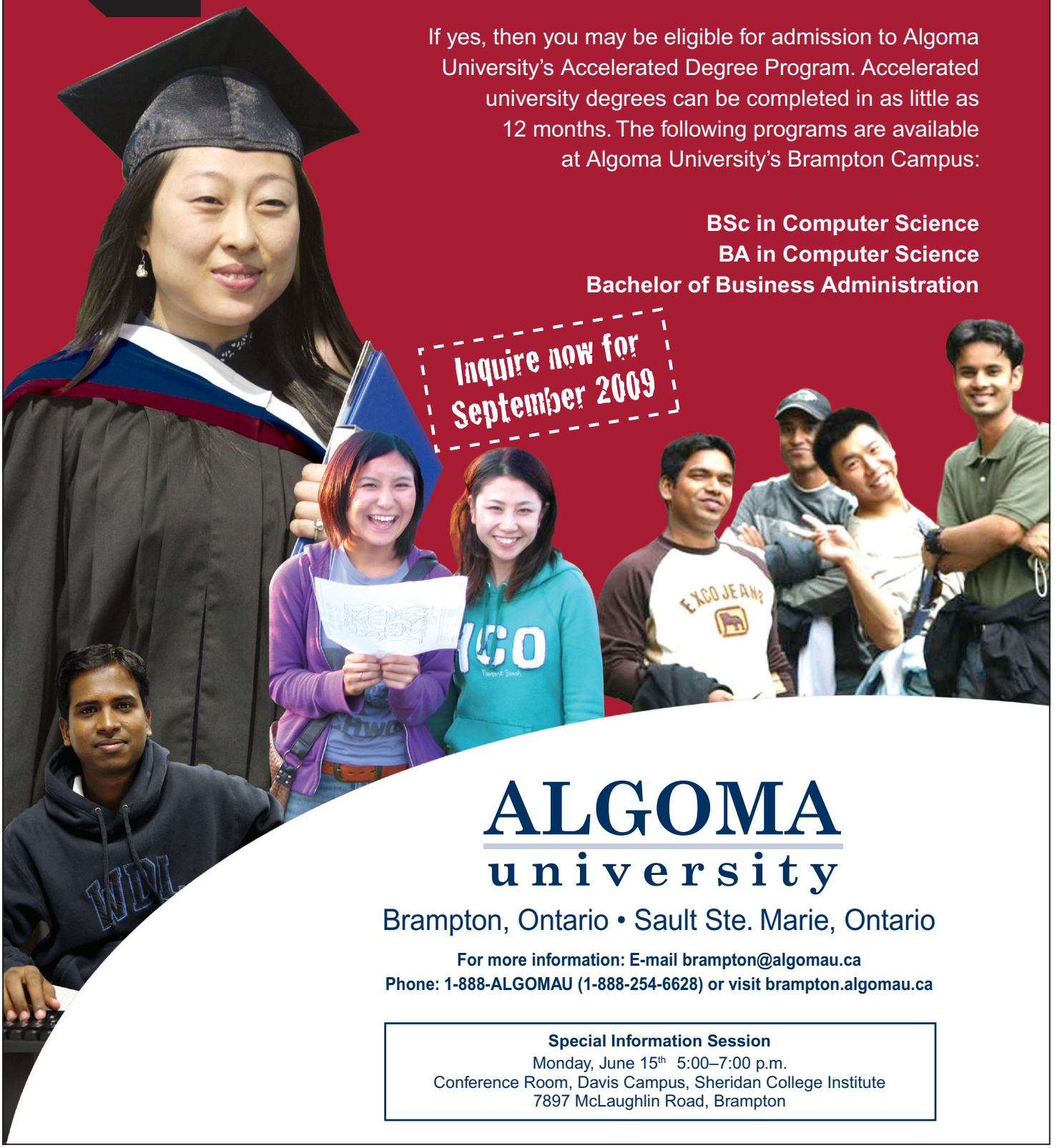

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Student's stroller wins top design prize

EVA LAM
for Metro Canada

Most people think "baby" when it comes to strollers. For five Humber College students, also thinking "manoeuvrability," "compactability" and "comfort" earned them three awards last month at the DX/Safety 1st Stroller Design Competition.

The "Eclipse" stroller, by Humber College students Mike Vecchiarelli and Andrew Houston, came in third place.

Sponsored by the Design Exchange and Safety 1st Inc., a developer of child-care products, the competition challenged industrial design students across Canada to create a stylish and relevant stroller for today's parents. In total, 30 entries came in from five schools.

Katie Weber of the Design Exchange says the panel of judges — which included the editor-in-chief of Canadian Family magazine and professional industrial designers — was extremely impressed by the high calibre of entries.

"They were really looking for thinking outside the box, not just copying what already exists in terms of stroller design," she says. "And we definitely got those results!"

Humber incorporated the stroller design competition into its fourth-year product design studio class. Students began working on the assignment five weeks before the competition deadline, with eight teams eventually opting to enter their designs.

One of them was first-place winner Kevin Idzerda, 22. His stroller, which he called the "Spur," was lauded by the judges for being "aesthetically pleasing" and "realistic in its approach to design and the target market."

Idzerda, 22, says he wanted his stroller to be "simple to use but also visually uncomplicated," with insects being one inspiration for its appearance.

"I tried to make it look less mechanical and more organic," he says.

Mike Vecchiarelli and Andrew Houston placed third for their "Eclipse" stroller. "The thing that I love most about industrial design is the opportunity to create and use my imagination," says Vecchiarelli, 23.

Unique features in his team's design included a cocoon-like shell, "disappearing" canopy, removable seat for easy washing, and hub-less wheels. Incorporating the last feature forced Vecchiarelli and Houston to seek cheaper materials for the stroller's other parts in order to heed the mid-point price of approximately $250 as stipulated by the competition guidelines.

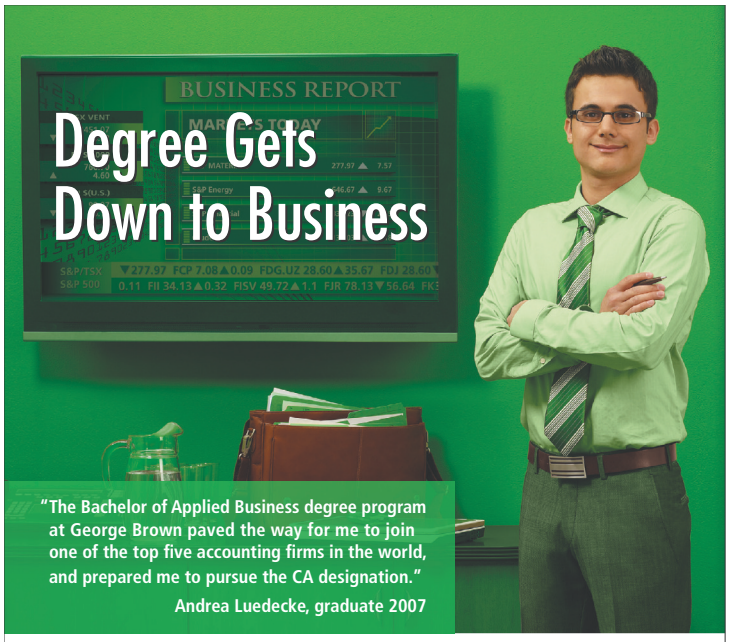
"It's one of those things that visually makes a big difference," he says of the unusual wheels. "It gives it a sense of extending into the future."

Humber students Mike Lee and Melanie Cunanan also received an honourable mention in the competition.

The event is just one example of the various company-sponsored competitions undertaken every year by Humber's industrial design students. Glenn Moffatt, who teaches the fourth-year product design studio class with Dennis Kappen, says the rewards go beyond the cash prizes students win.

"The students also benefit from the important exposure and learning experience of being involved in a real-life project," he says.

The "Spur" stroller by Humber College student Kevin Idzera took first place at the DX/Safety 1st Stroller Design Competition.



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Workshops inspire aspiring writers

RAFAEL BRUSILOW
for Metro Canada

The University of Toronto's Summer Writing School runs — or sprints, to be more exact — until tomorrow at U of T's St. George Campus, just in time for budding writers to find inspiration in the heady days of summer.

In its fifth year, the weeklong whirlwind features daily round-table discussions, readings and workshops on student-submitted works with instructors who know how to succeed in writing because they have lived it themselves.

Acclaimed novelist Joy Fielding will teach a section on writing best-selling novels and the roster of instructors includes many other literary heavyweights such as City of Toronto Book Award winner Helen Humphreys and Ken Babstock, nominated in 2006 for the Governor General's Award for poetry. The emphasis on successful, well-regarded writers on the instructional roster is deliberate for more than name recognition alone as the goal is to let students learn directly from people with experience.

"We're trying to expose students to writers and instructors who are experienced in the field, published in the field and great teachers on their own," said Lee Gowan, program head of the creative writing program at the School of Continuing Studies at U of T.

Giller Prize nominee Alissa York will return this year to teach the short story workshop and says one of the best parts about the intensive program is that it brings talented, like-minded people together for mutual benefit.

VINCE TALOTTA/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Acclaimed novelist Joy Fielding is teaching at the University of Toronto Writing School.

"It's a really wonderful student body that comes — they're very serious about writing and really excited about it. It's good to be amongst people who care about the same things you do," York said.

New sections on the graphic novel and song-writing will join popular favourites fantasy and science fiction writing and screenwriting return full-force.

For students like Diane Terrana, 48, the course is a chance to finally follow up on a long-held writing dream. Terrana has two English degrees and has lived a creative life that includes stints as a dancer and English teacher but never really took the plunge with creative writing, until now.

"I finally decided I wasn't going to go into my attic and produce a novel. I realize I need to be around other writers and having a place you can learn with people in the same situation as you, it's illuminating," Terrana said.

For more information, visit learn.utoronto.ca.

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Professional development can play an important role in your life and enhance potential employment opportunities. In these tough economic times, standing out from the competition is extremely important when it comes to advancing your career. By getting involved in additional professional activities, you are showing an employer that you have a willingness to learn and to keep your skills up to date.

There are many different options for professional development, which may include workshops, association events, and even post-graduate certificates, to complement your education. Some community agencies and post-secondary continuing education departments offer a broad range of educational programs, training and resources that may be related to your profession. Some of these programs offer a certificate of completion or recognition that can be included as formal training on your resumé.

You can also look for professional development opportunities on campus and through your current part-time job. You may choose to participate in a one-day workshop or weekend courses.

Your current place of employment may offer professional development opportunities such as workshops or specialized training. Even part-time jobs on campus can offer valuable customer service training and real-world work experiences that will enhance your career marketability. Seneca College's student services department operates a formal program for student workers, called the student ambassador program, which provides workplace skills and professional development opportunities.

"We always challenge our student ambassadors to realize their goals and explore new ideas and training opportunities," says Jackie Lane, who works with Seneca's student ambassadors. Each of the selected ambassadors participate in formal workshops that enhance customer service relations, office etiquette and services for students with disabilities.

"Students can highlight these training sessions on their resumés," Lane says. "The skills students learn are transferable to many other career opportunities." She stresses the significance of always looking for professional development activities and events. "It is important to get involved, add value to your resumé and grow as a professional. Successful people are constantly striving for self-improvement."

Every professional development activity you get involved with provides you with the prospect for individual growth, specialized training, and career enhancement. If you have a few hours or a few months, taking the time to get involved with enhanced learning opportunities is certainly a strong investment to your future and may help you get ahead of the competition.

Tracy Rogers is the Career Services Co-ordinator for Seneca College, Seneca@York Campus.

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Learning Curve is a monthly feature that focuses on education and student life. Next month's issue comes out on July 14.

Centennial launches fraud certificate

ERIC EMIN WOOD
for Metro Canada

Next winter, Centennial College will begin offering its first-ever certificate in financial fraud investigation, an eight-month online program for students and business employees who wish to prevent the sort of faulty accounting that's made headlines recently.

"We believe there's a market for it," says John Harris, chair of accounting, financial services, and legal and administrative studies at Centennial's School of Business. "With recent corporate accounting scandals, people involved with accounting and professional practice need to be aware of fraud, and learn the knowledge and skills related to financial fraud examination."

The program is being launched in collaboration with the Association of Certified Fraud Examiners, "so graduates will end up getting both a graduate certificate from us and will be qualified to write an industry examination" for the ACFE, Harris says.

Financial fraud investigation courses include forensic accounting.

> **"With recent corporate accounting scandals, people involved with accounting and professional practice need to be aware of fraud."**
> John Harris

Courses include: Electronic investigation, in which students are taught to examine transactions and discover where funds came from; financial institutions and identity theft, which teaches students about "the types of identity theft and investigation techniques in the financial institution, credit card, and insurance industries"; and financial crimes investigation, which teaches students "how to gather evidence and store it for both civil and criminal judicial proceedings."

Perhaps most eye-catching is the class on forensic accounting, "the process of evaluating financial evidence, such as statements and insurance claims, and tracing it across borders," Harris says.

The program is designed for students who already have college degrees or equivalent professional experience. "People within large companies who are mature in their work experience will be able to get the most value out of it," Harris says.

It could also help workers who are in an investigative role already, such as "someone with the bank ombuds office that wants to gain skills in financial fraud investigation, and move into a more senior role," Harris says.

Students interested in financial fraud investigation as a career should begin by enrolling in a traditional business program and view Centennial's certificate as a supplement, Harris says.

The financial fraud investigation program begins in January 2010. Cost is $4,013 for two semesters. To register, go to centennialcollege.ca.

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Learning Curve is a monthly feature that focuses on education and student life. Next month's issue comes out on July 14.

Creativity is key for this career expert

Industry411
education@metronews.ca

Name: Kendra Reddy
Occupation: Career expert and professional speaker

Years of experience: Seven in current field, 16 working full time

Q What steps did you take to help you get started in your industry?

A My career path has certainly not been a straight one. I've never envisioned myself as choosing one specific thing to be when I grow up and, as a result, I transferred my skills and strengths to several different industries (basically experimenting and gaining experience) until I found executive search. I enjoyed working with people who were searching for new opportunities, since I had done so much of that myself, and realized that I could help even more by working in the broader arena of talent management.

I spent five years working as a full-time career consultant, providing career transition, career management, and change management support to clients and companies. In addition to meeting individually with clients to assist them in creating and executing proactive career plans, I also designed and delivered seminars and workshops to groups and organizations. This was by far my favourite part of my job. In order to be able to do more professional speaking on the career issues I am passionate about, I started my independent practice, Blueprint Strategies.

Career expert and professional speaker Kendra Reddy.

Q Describe the ideal qualities a person should have to succeed in your industry?

A In this industry you are a catalyst to your client's process so you have to be flexible, find creative solutions, and stay on the cutting edge of what is happening globally in the marketplace. Patience and empathy are critical, since a large part of most people's identities is tied to the work they do. And, of course, to speak professionally, you have to be comfortable being the centre of attention in large groups and have a high, positive energy level!

Q What kind of background, either educational or other, best suits someone starting out in your industry?

A My educational background is psychology. Other areas of study in this field include human resources, career counselling, organizational behaviour, education, and industrial relations. Hands-on business experience is also an asset — my experience in planning and executing my own career evolution in a period of revolution translates into relevant insight, which results in success for my clients.

Q What do you like most about your job?

A The best part of my job is helping people to understand how to take control of their careers and motivating them to take action on their strategy. There is no better feeling than seeing a client have a plan and work the plan.

Q What are the most challenging aspects of your industry?

A The early stages of career change and transition can be difficult — especially if the person did not expect it or want it. Being the first point of contact immediately after someone's just been informed that their job has been modified or gone away can be a very delicate situation to be in. My role in those situations is to address immediate needs, such as how to communicate the news to friends and family, or how to access personal support and resources, in order to help the person to begin to move forward.

Q What tips would you offer newcomers to the industry?

A I would offer the same advice I offer clients who are interested in exploring new career paths: Research and find out as much as you can about the industry by talking to people who are in (or have been in) the same industry. Talk to people at every stage and level. Ask them the same questions that I've answered here, ask them to speculate and evaluate where they think the industry is going in the future, ask for personal feedback, and most importantly, ask them to refer you to someone else who would be interesting to speak to. It is important to have a realistic and holistic view in order to make informed decisions.

Q What kind of local associations/organizations/volunteer activities would you recommend?

A The Human Resources Professional Association of Ontario and the Strategic Capability Network are both well-known and helpful associations. Contact Point is a wonderful (free) resource for career and employment counsellors and career development practitioners. Look for volunteer opportunities at career centres within local high schools, colleges, and universities.

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Metro Workology exclusive: Head to Toe
In the coming weeks Metro's Workology section will be setting its sights on the health industry and all jobs and careers therein. So be sure to read Workology and Metronews.ca/work for the special Head to Toe series.

Workology

Motion of ocean technology

Last Friday, the Newfoundland and Labrador government launched a new initiative called Oceans of Opportunity — a five-year, $28-million strategy with the goal of identifying new opportunities in ocean technology and expanding relationships with regional, national, and international partners.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

EDITOR: DOUGLAS.DUNLOP@METRONEWS.CA

Workology in **brief**

UNEMPLOYMENT RATE
Canada's unemployment rate rose to 8.4 per cent in May, it's highest level in 11 years, according to a Statistics Canada report released last month. While Ontario experienced substantial decline in May, down 60,000 jobs, employment in Manitoba, Nova Scotia and Saskatchewan actually increased.

LGBT RIGHTS Despite living in a country with legislated human rights protections for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender individuals, a new Canadian-based study reveals that LGBT employees do, in fact, face barriers. The Catalyst study, sponsored by Scotiabank, says this is due to a lack of awareness on the part of other employees, which leads them to rely on stereotypes of LGBT individuals and can result in a hostile work environment. The study reports that organizations with inclusive diversity practices indicated better working environments. HEATHER BUCHAN/ FOR METRO CANADA

Staying in shape for extra cash

Head to **Toe**

MAT LECOMPTE
for Metro Canada

In economic times like these, having some additional cash in the pocket can be pretty handy. Of course, right now, the opportunities to make a little bit of extra income can seem too few and far between. But by using the old combination of two feet and a heartbeat, there are a number of opportunities that could increase your income this summer.

With a passion for fitness, a desire for helping others and the comfort of a little extra dough, people like Alanna Gills are taking advantage of part-time job opportunities that let them stay fit and make some decent cash.

Gillis, the 28-year-old asset and facility management consultant by day, has found a way to make an additional $40 an hour in her spare time by doing what she loves: Running.

Every Tuesday evening, Gillis instructs two running clinics for a personal training studio called Body Design, about 40 minutes north of Toronto. The part-time opportunity that she stumbled in to a few months ago is perfect for an athletic, health-conscious person like her. Drawing from experience as a runner and personal trainer, she teaches an introductory running course called Learn to Run, while also training people for 10-kilometer races. All in all, she says the experience is phenomenal — and it's not just the money attached to it.

"I love it," she says. "When you get someone through a tough spot; when you see that you've helped them do something they wouldn't normally do, it's really great!"

In order to get a part-time job in fitness, Gillis insists that it should be something people be passionate and educated about. She has been a certified personal trainer for years and has enjoyed running since she was a child, but required no formal training for her current running clinics. She says that based on her lifestyle and knowledge of the body, she is a qualified leader.

So, how does someone like you get a part-time job in fitness? Well, all you can really do is just get out and look. Consider inquiring with stores like the Running Room or community centres in your area. Be sure to learn about any kind of unique training or qualifications you may need in order to take on such a job.

Taking on a few clients or getting hired to hold clinics can be great way to keep fit, while making decent money in the process.

Healthiest cities

- Best Health Magazine recently broke down the healthiest cities in Canada, where one of the criteria was people who enjoy activity for leisure time. Here are the Top 10 places you'll find people looking to engage in an active lifestyle: Victoria, Ottawa, Calgary, Winnipeg, Brandon, Vancouver, Charlottetown, Edmonton, Saint John, Regina. Toronto was placed at No. 19.

For more of the Head to Toe exclusive series check Workology frequently or stop by: **metronews.ca/work**

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Health & Beauty

EDITOR: ANN-MARIE.COLACINO@METRONEWS.CA

Anti-aging skincare: A round-up

Wrinkle and sun-damage reducer options

JANINE FALCON
For Metro Canada

An important thing to know about anti-aging skincare is that skin renewal takes an average of 28 days, more if you're 40-plus, and pigmentation can be particularly stubborn.

Ditch the quick-fix idea and allow four to six weeks for something new to work. Here are anti-wrinkle, anti-sun damage and eco-friendly options to consider.

Wrinkle Reducers

• Marcelle New-Age Anti-Wrinkle + Firming Cream stimulates collagen production and moisturizes with amino acids, shea butter, caffeine and soybean extract ($27 at Shoppers Drug Mart).

• Neutrogena Ageless Intensives Deep Wrinkle Eye Cream combats under-eye crepiness with super-hydrating hyaluronic acid and Retinol ($28 at drugstores).

• For sensitive skin, Vichy Liftactiv Retinol HA combines hyaluronic acid with Retinol and adenosine, a fast-acting molecule that has retinol-like properties of its own ($49 at drugstores).

• Olay Professional Pro-X Wrinkle Smoothing Cream offers the brand's most intense Pro-Retinol formula for results in 28 days ($55 at drugstores; also available as part of a three-step starter kit for $83).

• Neostrata Intense Daytime Wrinkle Repair SPF 15 targets deep creases with Matrixyl (a wrinkle-reducing pentapeptide) and Retinol ($68 at drugstores).

• AmorePacific, a luxury Korean botanically-based brand, packs its Contour Lift Extreme Creme with bamboo sap to hydrate, and olive, jojoba and green-tea seed oils as well as minerals and amino acids to nourish and firm ($200 at Holt Renfrew).

Sun-Spot Reducers

• Lancôme Génifique Youth Activator Serum stimulates the production of skin proteins we have in abundance in our youth but lose as we age, and promises brighter, more even skin ($92 at Lancôme counters).

• Clinique Even Better Skin Tone Corrector boosts cell turnover with glucosamine and salicylic acid, and fades and prevents hyperpigmentation with antioxidants and mushroom-derived extracts ($39.50 at Clinique counters).

• Dermalogica ChromaWhite TRx is an anti-dark spot regimen from cleansing to night cream that employs exfoliating lactic acid, skin brightening vitamin C, and pigment inhibiting niacinamide and Oligopeptide-34 (from $50, visit dermalogica.com for salons).

SPF

• Anti-aging skincare increases sensitivity to UVA/UVB rays and related hyperpigmentation, so diligent sunscreen habits are crucial. Cliniderm Gentle Protective Lotion SPF 45 shields dry, sensitive, allergic or reactive skin with titanium dioxide and zinc oxide, and has a surprisingly light, fast-absorb texture ($29 at drugstores).

• Wrinkles or pigmentation — which do you treat? Whatever bothers you most. But note: too many anti-aging products at once, such as lactic acid cleanser plus salicylic-acid serum plus retinol cream, might work at first, but could soon cause irritation, dehydration, dryness and actually spell a-g-e-d.

ISTOCK PHOTO

Ditch the quick-fix idea, most skincare products take four to six weeks to work — so get started now!

Eco-Friendly Options

• Burt's Bees Naturally Ageless Intensive Repairing Serum is a 100 per cent natural formula that fights fine lines and wrinkles with botanical oils and extracts, including pomegranate ($29.99 at Shoppers Drug Mart).

• Jouviance EcoRejuvenation Eye Serum reduces dark circles and wrinkles with caffeine-rich pro-collagen peptides and is free of silicones, artificial fragrance, parabens and colourants ($40 at drugstores).

• All-natural Glisodin Skin Nutrients Advanced Daily Formula supplements soften, smooth and brighten skin with a mix of nutrient-dense antioxidant ingredients, including superoxide dismutase. (Two-month supply $95; glisodinskin.com for retailers).

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›› Continued from page 32

What to buy

AmorePacific Contour Lift Extreme, $200.

GliSODin Skin Nutrients Daily Formula, $95.

Lancôme Génifique Youth Activator Serum, $92.

Cliniderm Gentle Protective Lotion SPF 45, $29.

Vichy Liftactiv Retinol HA, $49.

Burt's Bees Naturally Ageless Intensive Repairing Serum, $29.99.

Dermalogica ChromaWhite TRx Pure Light SPF 30 Day Cream, $78.

Marcelle New-Age Anti-Wrinkle + Firming Cream, $27.

NeoStrata Intense Daytime Wrinkle Repair, $68.

JANINE FALCON/FOR METRO CANADA

'Lift' your way to youth

Running and resistance training can reverse aging signs

CELIA MILNE
for Metro Canada

It is never too late to start exercising.

And whether you are 30 years old or 90, exercises such as running and lifting weights can help reverse the signs of aging.

"It is always best to start early," says Dr. Mark Tarnopolsky, director of the neuromuscular and neurometabolic units at McMaster University Medical Centre in Hamilton, "but it is important that in our studies we also see major benefits in previously inactive older adults who complete four or six months of weight training."

Tarnopolsky and colleagues have been studying what actually happens inside the body when people exercise. They have found quite a few benefits at the molecular level: Reduced fat in the body, increased muscle mass and decreased cell damage from aging. These effects occur even in 90-year-olds.

Exercising makes a difference in the way our genes act. The McMaster research shows that 579 genes in muscles start acting differently as we age.

In one of Tarnopolsky's studies, 33 per cent of these genes went back to normal in people who did six months of weight training twice a week.

"We have also shown that resistance exercise improves some of the biomarkers of aging," says Tarnopolsky. Biomakers are substances in the blood which signal disease or decay.

ISTOCK PHOTO

Resistance exercise improves some of the biomarkers of aging, which are substances in the blood that signal disease or decay.

Running also seems to help people fight the effects of aging. A study conducted in northern California by researchers at Stanford University found that runners live longer than non-runners.

This study followed almost 1,000 people — about half were members of a running club and the other half were non-runners — for more than 20 years. All the participants were over 50 when the study started in 1984. After 19 years, only 15 per cent of runners had died, versus 34 per cent of non-runners.

This difference in survival rates continued to broaden as time went on. At 21 years, runners had a 50 per cent lower risk of death than non-runners.

In study after study, it has been shown that being physically active can help you fend off diseases such as type 2 diabetes, heart disease and even some types of cancer.

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"It is always best to start early, but ... in our studies we also see major benefits in previously inactive older adults who complete four or six months of weight training."
Dr. Mark Tarnopolsky, McMaster University Medical Centre

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Bikini season is here!

Some last-minute tips from the experts before the big reveal

Get a bikini-ready bod by trading in abdomen crushes for plank holds.

Don't worry if you forgot about bikini season. With so much going on, who had time to think about counting calories and working out to fit into a two-piece?

But it's not too late to get ready for the big reveal. We asked eight experts for some last-minute tips to inspire bikini body confidence:

Accept yourself: Stand in front of the mirror with your bathing suit on. Focus on the features you like. Then focus on what you will do in the suit — swim, lay on the beach. "The more you focus on what you will do, rather than how you look, the more you'll enjoy yourself and the better your body image will be."

— Stacey Rosenfeld, New York City-based psychologist

Eat fruits and veggies: High water, high potassium fruits and vegetables help regulate the body's water balance to reduce bloating and prevent dehydration. Since vegetables are only 20 calories a serving, cut back on whole grains and lean proteins and use veggies to fill up.

— Dawn Jackson Blatner, registered dietitian and author of The Flexitarian Diet (McGraw-Hill, 2009)

Do the plank: Trade in crunches for plank holds. Crunches work the rectus abdominus but planks target the internal obliques, external obliques and transverse abdominus to give you a leaner look by helping with your posture. To do a plank, balance on the floor on your forearms and toes, forming a straight line from head to heels and hold for 30 seconds.

— Mary Christ Anderson, fitness director of Fitness magazine

Accessorize: Try a great pair of earrings, an anklet or belly ring, cool sunglasses, lovely flip-flops. Bring a glamorous cover-up. If you need colour, use a self-tanner, which will make you feel more confident. Get a mani and pedi. "Your toes and fingers can really help carry off an elegant look."

— Red Carter, designer

Make the suit fit: You should not get bulging from the straps or material and the bottom should not be baggy. The bottom should contour with your rear without pinching or sagging. With the top, always tie the bottom strap first as tight as possible — without losing circulation — and then do the top around your neck. This will lift the bust up.

— Danna Pomeroy of fijitimeswim.com

Get on track: Start exercising and eating right today for a two-pound weight loss in one week. You will feel more confident and energized. Do a mix of cardio and strength training; follow a 1,600 to 1,800 calorie a day menu.

— Meaghan B. Murphy, SELF's fitness director

Try intervals: Fire up the metabolism with an interval-based cardio program. Do this simple routine three days this week: one minute max effort, followed by two minutes at an easy pace. Repeat five times. You can run, bike, or use a cardio machine. To prevent bloating, keep sodium in check and watch the gas-producing foods and carbonated beverages.

— Jen Ator, Women's Health assistant fitness editor

Give in: Rather than focus on what size you were last year or thought you would be this year, find a suit that fits the body you have now. "Knowing and understanding the size and shape of your body, and deciding how you want to dress it, can be an empowering moment. After all, size is just a number."

— Jess Weiner, author, self-esteem expert

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Clothing that can save your skin

Clockwise from left: Blumod baseball cap designed for blemished skin ($58) and Blumod men's shirt ($99); Yelomod women's long sleeve sport shirt designed for skin rejuvination ($115). All available at sunsoul.com.

FASHION "SunSoul is sports clothing with a twist," says company president Tim Brown of the clothing line that both blocks bad UV rays and transforms them into something good.

The long- and short-sleeved tees, tanks and hats for men and women come in blue (to help treat acne) and yellow (to help fade sunspots).

Brown says SunSoul's fabrics are dermatologist-tested and recognized, and are considered a Class 1 medical device, according to Health Canada standards.

He explained the science via email: Simply put, the nylon-based material with cosmetic properties, known as cosmetotextiles, blocks harmful UV rays and then transmits coloured light through the material to the skin.

"Blue light is proven to battle blemishes by eradicating the bacteria associated with acne," Brown said.

"Yellow light is used for reversing sun damage — red and brown spots on the skin — by penetrating the discoloured spots and disintegrating the damaged cells."

In addition, the lightweight gear wicks away moisture and allows the skin to breathe. Products, $70 to $115 (U.S.), can be found at sunsoul.com.

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Genetic sexual attraction

Opening of adoption records may cause psychological effects

Imagine, at age 42, finally meeting the son you gave up for adoption at age 16 and finding yourself sexually attracted to him.

Yes, disturbing. But Genetic Sexual Attraction (GSA), that is, being sexually attracted to a biological relative you've never met because you were separated through adoption, is more common than you might think.

Given that on June 1, Ontario became the fifth province to open its adoption records — making it easier for adopted adults and birth parents to find each other — some feel there is a need for greater education and support surrounding GSA.

Little has been studied about GSA but one study out of England concluded that sexual attraction was a normal response when blood relatives met as strangers. The study's participants described emotionally charged meetings and the shock of familiarity as they noticed the same interests, traits and mannerisms in their relative. Many described it as feeling like they were looking into a mirror.

Barbara Gonyo, the woman referred to in the opening of this column and author of I'm His Mother, But He's Not My Son (geneticsexualattraction.com), believes there is a natural curiosity and need to know your birth relatives and what traits you share. "When contact is made, these emotions come to a head along with a need for the intimacy removed by the separation." And because there isn't the sexual taboo that usually develops within a family that grows up together, the intensity of these feelings often become sexualized.

"When contact is made, these emotions come to a head along with a need for the intimacy removed by the separation."
Barbara Gonyo, author of I'm His Mother, But He's Not My Son

By being educated about GSA, says Gonyo, the birth relative and the adoptee might be able to handle any potential sexual feelings and avoid acting on them until they subside and the relationship eventually normalizes.

In some cases, if they have acted on them, educating themselves about GSA can help deal with the psychological effects of this and allow a healthy non-sexual relationship to develop.

Gonyo is happy to hear that Ontario is opening its adoption records, in part because she feels that the secrecy surrounding adoption contributes to the stigma people suffer when they experience GSA. "If all adoptions become open from the beginning and having an adoptive family while still knowing your birth family is a given, then it all becomes more normal."

To learn more about your rights to information and privacy regarding adoption, visit adoptioninfo.ca or call 1-800-461-2156. Visit Josey's blog Sexcetera at metronews.ca/blogs.

Josey Vogels is a sex and relationship columnist and author of five books on the subjects. For more info, visit joseyvogels.com.

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Waves of inspiration

Summer beauty collections celebrate the life aquatic

SOFI PAPAMARKO
For Metro Canada

Call it the Summer of the Mermaid. Glimmering aqua eyes, silver nails and soft mouths are all the rage this season.

Maybe it's because we've emerged from the longest winter in recent memory. Or maybe it's the fact that Disney's Ariel turns 20 this year. Whatever the reason, we're yearning to live the life aquatic. And cosmetics companies are looking below the waves for inspiration.

Lise Watier

Lise Watier's Sea Belle, a cute play-on-words (si belle translates to so beautiful in French), is a dramatic collection of saltwater-inspired hues. The main event is their Sea Belle eyeshadow quartet in Lagoon. The colours go on like satin and are housed in an eye-catching metallic blue compact. Métal Liner in Deep Ocean is a rich royal blue that goes on easily, stays put and has a subtly sparkly finish. Eye Glitter Liner in Cybermint is a liquid liner with green and blue sparkles; it's a little high school play for daily use, but if you're searching for a dramatic look for a big night out, dive in!

Lise Watier Sea Belle Quartet in Lagoon, $35.

Annabelle

Annabelle's Hydropolis line features such sea-worthy eyeliners as Atomic Surf, Blue Grotto and Mermaid To Order, which is an irresistible deep-green with a high gloss finish that reminds us of mermaid tails.

Sunny Side

Mermaid, Sea Green and Wahine Blue and accompanying multi-striped eyeshadows in combos like Water Lily and Aquatech. Make your eyes the main attraction by toning down your mouth. Annabelle's Le Gloss Stick in Bikini Beige is a subtle and pretty neutral.

Marcelle

Marcelle's Aquatik line features three different shades of highly-pigmented Aquatik Dome Eye Shadows (Tropik, Pink Star and Aquamarine), a cleverly packaged product with a marbled look that allows the user to customize the intensity and hue. The 3-in-1 Retractable Eyeliner in Chrome is an eye-brightening metallic with a built-in smudge sponge and sharpener. Depending on how much you choose to smudge, you can either make yourself into a bewitching sea nymph or a sexy other-worldly fembot.

OPI

The celebrated nailpolish manufacturer's summer collection is a must for any bathing beauty! The Mermaid in the Shade line is a grouping of shimmering blues and whites that go on ultra-sheer, but gain intensity and drama after three or four coats. The collection is made up of Lagoon A Beach, Underwater, Just a Fairytale, Water Baby,

ISTOCK PHOTO

Dive into a dramatic look this season with metallic blues, silvers and greens.

Kenzo

If you're going to look like a mermaid, you should probably smell the part. Kenzo's newest fragrance is L'AU PAR KENZO Eau Indigo. The fresh yet mysterious floral comes in a bottle inspired by the way the sun lights up the waves.

Annabelle Multi-stripes Eyeshadow in Aquatech, $10.95

Lise Watier Métal Liner in Deep Ocean, $18.

Annabelle Smudgeliner in Sea Green, $8.50.

Marcelle Aquatik Dome Eye Shadow in Aquamarine, $10.95

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Bret Michaels injured at Tony Awards
Bret Michaels was slightly injured during an opening number at Sunday night's 63rd annual Tony Awards. During the musical number the reality star was knocked to the ground after running into a piece of scenery. USMAGAZINE.COM

Entertainment

Idol signed
Kris Allen has hit another high note: The American Idol champ, 23, has signed a record deal. His debut album, licensed to Jive Records, will drop this fall.
USMAGAZINE.COM

EDITOR: DEAN.LISK@METRONEWS.CA

Energy and attitude

Producer Bob Rock helps Offspring mash metal, punk

Metallica and Mötley Crüe producer Bob Rock helped The Offspring put together 2008's Rise and Fall, Rage and Grace.

ROB MCMAHON
for Metro Canada

Despite his nickname, The Offspring's guitarist Kevin "Noodles" Wasserman says he's no riff-shredding headbanger.

Reached a couple days before the start of the band's tour to support last year's Rise and Fall, Rage and Grace, Wasserman said the band's connection to famed Metallica and Mötley Crüe producer (and Canadian) Bob Rock wasn't because they always hoped to work with the man who helped craft those epic guitar sounds.

In fact, Wasserman's introduction to the genre came by accident, via a cover song.

"None of us were into metal early on. I always loved Paranoid by Black Sabbath — that was one of the few (metal songs) I got into," he said. "But I always thought that it was a Dickies song, at least until I played the record for some friends and they said it was Black Sabbath."

Despite Wasserman's denials, the guitar intros to Hammerhead or A Lot Like Me sound less like those Southern California punk legends than Rock-produced Metallica. When pushed, he did say that the better he gets at guitar, the more he appreciates the fretwork of players like Van Halen, and AC/DC's three-chord assault — an influence that can be heard in much of The Offspring catalogue, which has long merged punk energy and attitude with metal's heavy riffs.

Offspring live

- The Offspring play the Molson Amphitheatre July 2.

"None of us are really metalheads, but we do appreciate bits and pieces of it," said Wasserman. "Metallica is a great band ... and the guitar playing on the Black Album is great, in terms of in your face shredding. (But) I like a good song first, and a good shred second — no excessive shredding."

Returning to the Dickies-Metallica dichotomy, The Offspring do focus their lyrical content more on So-Cal punk. Despite pushing their fourth decade on earth, the band members continues writing songs about — and aimed at — the youth audience. Asked what it is about the youngsters that so inspires the Offspring, Wasserman said it's because that's who their peers are.

"We've never had to get a real job, and for the last 14 years we've been able to tour the country, drink beer and have fun," he said. (A young audience) isn't something we think about in terms of targeting our songs, it's just who we are, and what we watch on TV. We grew up listening to that kind of music, and that feeling in music, so we keep coming back to it."

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More Saw on the way

Tobin Bell, Saw's now deceased Jigsaw, has confirmed that the trap-happy franchise will continue until at least part eight, as long as the audience remains faithful. "I look forward to filling out the other pieces of the puzzle," he says on horror site Bloody Disgusting. EMPIREONLINE.COM

McKinney 'thrilled' by award

HONOUR Kids In The Hall member Mark McKinney says it's an off year for comedy.

How else to explain the decision to award the funnyman — known for creating such ludicrous characters as a sex-crazed chicken lady and a head-crushing grouch — the Peter Ustinov Award for comedy?

"I just didn't think I was there yet, you know, wherever 'there' is," McKinney says of his surprise at being chosen for the annual honour. "But I saw the, my God, the list of the other people who've won it, you know. It was really impressive."

McKinney called the honour "a gigantic thrill."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Dark side of Moon

Twilight's Lautner bites into meatier werewolf role

TALIA SOGHOMONIAN
Metro World News

For a while, there were rumours the Twilight character of Jacob Black would be recast for New Moon, but actor Taylor Lautner is back in the role. It's a juicier one this time, with more for the actor to get his teeth into. Not only does his relationship with Bella — played by Kristen Stewart — develop, but Lautner also went through an impressive physical transformation.

Taylor Lautner plays Jacob Black in Twilight sequel New Moon, currently in production.

Q How's it back being on set?

A It's good. I'm really excited to be back with the whole team again and our new director, Chris Weitz. It's been a lot of fun so far and the movie's looking great, so I couldn't ask for more.

Q And you have a huge role this time.

A It's a little bit bigger, yeah! It's exciting because I'm excited to bring alive the new Jacob Black for the fans.

Q You look like an '80s rock star with your long hair.

A Sometimes I look in the mirror and I don't recognize myself. It's an actual wig. It's glued to my head in the front and it gets itchy sometimes. You can see the lace if you look close, but it doesn't come across on camera. It gives me a totally different look. I don't even look like myself.

Q The biggest change is in your body ... you gained 30 pounds of muscle for this role.

A I did, yeah. When I was filming Twilight, I knew where my character was going in the rest of the series, so obviously I knew I had some work ahead of me! So as soon as I stopped filming Twilight, I got back home, hit the gym and worked very, very hard, and here I am filming New Moon, 30 pounds heavier.

Q And doing your own stunts.

A So far. Let's not jinx it, but basically you get an evaluation at the beginning of filming. They took me to a gymnasium to see what I could do. They put me on some dirt bikes to see how well I can do. I think they're just figuring out how much they're actually going to allow me to do. So far, I've been able to do everything, so I'm hoping that doesn't change too much cause the stunts are a lot of fun.

Q How did you prepare for your role?

A I did a lot of study for the first film. Before I even started filming Twilight, I studied up on all of the Quileute tribes and legends and myths and everything about them. And when we got up to Portland, Ore., to film, I was able to meet with about 10 Quileute tribal members. I got to talk to them and what I really learned is that they're not much different than me, and that was very unexpected.

What's your most exciting scene in New Moon?

It's so hard to choose. Like I said, I really enjoy the stunts so I had a lot of fun doing the dirt bike sequences. And I also like a lot of the more serious scenes, the pivotal scenes in the movie, like Jacob and Bella's breakup scene, which is the first time Bella sees Jacob after he has transformed into a wolf.

More New Moon

- For more on Metro's interview with Taylor Lautner, visit metronews.ca/entertainment
- Pick up tomorrow's issue of Metro for an interview with New Moon director Chris Weitz.

Exorcist again
It's not a sequel or a prequel or a reboot or a remake, but a film based on Mark Opsasnick's book The Real Story Behind The Exorcist is on the cards from Vertigo Entertainment. EMPIREONLINE.COM

Brush with death

Departures shows different side of mortality

NED EHRBAR
Metro Word News

When Japan's Departures walked away with the Oscar for Best Foreign Language Film this past February, many industry watchers were caught off-guard. But watching Yojiro Takita's quiet, moving film, it's easy to see why Academy voters were so enchanted by it.

"Initially we had no idea how the film would be received," Takita tells Metro. He admits that success in Japan and around the world has been more than encouraging. "We're particularly happy about receiving audience awards at several festivals. We're hoping that many more people will be able to see the film and enjoy it."

In the film, a recently fired cellist packs up his young wife and moves back to his hometown, where the only job he can find is as an "encoffiner," performing an age-old, little-known Japanese ceremony of preparing the recently deceased for burial. In the film and in real life, the career carries a certain amount of stigma, which Takita mined for drama.

Japanese filmmaker Yojiro Takita directed the Oscar-winning Departures.

"A certain degree of prejudice did exist prior to this film being released," Takita says. "But I think with the success and popularity of this film, many people who had previously been afraid to look death in the eye have been starting to have the courage to confront it. And I've heard that due to a lot of the news about this occupation coming up in correlation to the film, many young people are now expressing interest and taking up this occupation."

Even the broader themes of the film proved to be a challenge for the production team.

"In the process of developing the story, the fact that we deal with death weighed heavily on people's minds," Takita says.

But the film manages to mix in a very warm sense of humour, something Takita believes came naturally. "In life, the more serious you approach something, the more absurd and comical it sometimes becomes."

• Departures opens in Toronto this Friday.

Movie **feature**

DVD picks

Gran Torino
Director: Clint Eastwood

THE DURABLE Clint Eastwood transforms a stereotypical racist into a fully realized character in what many people think should have been called Dirty Harry VI. It's a thoughtful work that continues the actor/director's late-career surge.

In truth, it's more in line with Unforgiven, the understated 1992 western that won Eastwood Oscars for Best Picture and Best Director. There's a similar theme of reconciling past deeds and paying the toll that violence exacts, along with a shared economy of lensing and dialogue.

Eastwood seems to be channeling Archie Bunker in his depiction of Walt Kowalski, a widowed Korean War vet and retired Ford factory worker in suburban Detroit whose grim outlook on life has suddenly become a lot greyer. His family and neighbours won't get out of his face and off his lawn.

Walt isn't looking for redemption. He just wants to sit on his porch, smoke his cigarettes and drink can after can of beer. But he keeps getting dragged into neighbourhood drama when a gang of hoodlums starts bullying the youngest of his new next-door neighbors — and that's where the Dirty Harry analogies really make sense.

The outcome of Gran Torino upends expectations, yet it makes perfect sense and turns the film into a parable for modern times. No tumbleweeds roll down Walt Kowalski's street, but this is every inch a western set on concrete plains.

The extras are as lean as Eastwood, the highlights being featurettes that celebrate the Gran Torino car and Clint's love of Detroit metal.

Woodstock: 40th Anniversary Edition
Director: Michael Wadleigh

THIS "40TH Anniversary Ultimate Collector's Edition," costs $80 list for the preferred Blu-ray box, more than three times the $24 tab to actually attend all three days of the Woodstock Festival in 1969.

But it's a small price to pay for such artfully reconjured grooviness: a digitally upgraded director's cut (nearly four hours long), plus hours of documentary extras and amusing geekabilia: an iron-on Woodstock patch, a shimmering paper weight and reproductions of the admission ticket (you just crashed the gates, right?) plus handwritten love notes (no email or Twitter in '69, kids).

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Only two Tolkien prequels, not three: del Toro

There had been suggestions three films — two Hobbit adventures and a third to bridge the gap between that story and the Lord of the Rings films — would be created from the collaboration between Guillermo del Toro and Peter Jackson, but del Toro told MTV there will only be two films. TOTALFILMS.COM

The kids are alright

Talent evident in flawed Children's Crusade

RICK EGLINTON/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Jacob Abrahamse, 12, stars in the opera The Children's Crusade, now playing in Luminato.

There are many reasons to go see the Luminato-hosted premiere of R. Murray Schafer's new opera The Children's Crusade.

The timely story, based on an apocryphal early 13th-century tale about love being stronger than religious strife, has been given an inventive staging inside an old factory. There are great performances from cast and orchestra. And the music emits flashes of brilliance.

I wanted this complex, 90-minute effort to succeed. But its jerky dramatic thread kept breaking the magic spell I needed to walk and stand through the seven scenes that take place in different areas of an abandoned factory at the foot of Dufferin St.

Rather than following a narrative path of revelation or salvation, audience members become part of the ropes and tugs and mad scurrying of backstage machinery.

The initial scenes are no longer than 10 minutes: God speaks to a boy about the power of love; Holy Boy starts a crusade that will unite Christians, Jews and Muslims; homeless and orphaned children follow the leader; Holy Boy is tormented in a brothel.

The final section — the crusaders arrive at the sea, expecting it to part, it doesn't, they drown and are welcomed into heaven — is the most substantial, but there is still not enough to sustain in either Schafer's patchwork libretto or score to create a meaningful connection.

Each scene draws on our prejudices to create a dramatic bond. For example, we are expected to feel sympathy for the boy because of age and innocence, not because he has given us a reason. We are supposed to be repelled by the red rubber-clad hookers, but we're not told why.

Schafer dabbles in a vast palette of musical colours, but each scene is painted on a distinct canvas, further fragmenting the experience.

There are many magical moments, from the vibrating aluminium rods and singing saw that carry God's voice, to the fantastic work of 12-year-old Jacob Abrahamse as Holy Child, Maryem Tollar as a young Muslim woman and the urchins played by members of the Canadian Children's Opera Company.

The score blooms brightest in the ensembles, frequently evoking the sound and feel of Benjamin Britten's best. But just as the spell begins to take hold, Schafer moves on to a new scene.

From the staging — director Tim Albert, designer Leslie Travers and lighting guru Thomas Hase — to the music, conducted by David Fallis, every step of the way shows remarkable attention to detail. The Children's Crusade looks and sounds great.

It's too bad that this talent, energy and application serve an imperfect work.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Today's Luminato highlights

Many events are free, tickets for others can be purchased at 416-872-1111 or the T.O.TIX booth at Yonge Dundas Square. You can get more information and a full list of events at luminato.com

- **POE CABARET: A DREAM WITHIN A DREAM:** Tonight 9 p.m., and again Wed. Buddies in Bad Times Theatre, 12 Alexander St. ($45).
- **LIPSYNCH:** Tonight, Wed. & Thurs. at 7 p.m.; more performances June 13 & 14. Lorraine Kimsa Theatre for Young People, 165 Front St. E. ($75-$125).
- **ZISELE BY TEL AVIV'S BEIT LESSIN THEATRE:** Tonight 8 p.m.; till June 13. St. Lawrence Centre, 27 Front St. E. ($50-$60).

Thai cops keep FBI off Carradine case

PROBE Thai police said yesterday that they would welcome the FBI's assistance in investigating the death of American actor David Carradine, but only as observers in the high-profile case.

Carradine's naked body was discovered last Thursday morning in his luxury suite at Bangkok's Swissotel Nai Lert Park Hotel. Police initially suspected his death was a suicide but have since said it may have been accidental suffocation or heart failure after revealing he was found with a rope tied around his wrist, neck and genitals.

The circumstances suggested he might have died as a result of a dangerous sex game, Pornthip Rojanasunand, a prominent Thai forensic pathologist, said last week.

With the uncertainty and conflicting information surrounding the death, Carradine's family in the U.S. went to the FBI last Friday asking for its help investigating the case.

"If the FBI wants to get involved, we will do our best to co-operate," Thai police Maj. Gen. Amnuay Nimmano said, adding that it would have to be in an observer role as mandated by Thai law. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Tuna protest
Elle Macpherson, Sienna Miller, right, and Alicia Silverstone are among the 31 famous folks who have signed a petition vowing not to patronize Nobu London until it stops serving the near-extinct bluefin tuna. EONLINE.COM

TV's ultimate cougar

Susan Lucci's memorable All My Children character is about to become TV's Ultimate Cougar.

The conniving Erica Kane, with 10 husbands down already, will fall into the arms of a much younger man on ABC's soap opera this summer. To make life a little more complicated, it's her daughter's ex-husband and ex-fiance's stepson.

The soap opera's summer story line puts Lucci squarely into television's zeitgeist, now buzzing with stories about so-called "cougars" — a slang term for experienced women looking for younger models — as opposed to old men looking for models.

Cable's TV Land just wrapped up The Cougar, a reality series featuring a 40-year-old blond mother of four with salivating 20-somethings competing for her hand. ABC is prepping the comedy Cougar Town for the fall, with former Friends star Courteney Cox re-entering the dating world. On CBS' Accidentally on Purpose, Jenna Elfman has a baby with a slacker she picked up for a one-night stand.

ASSOCIATED PRESS/ABC/STEVE ERMAN

In this undated image released by ABC, Susan Lucci, portraying Erica Kane, left, kisses co-star Cameron Mathison, portraying Ryan Lavery in a scene from the daytime series, All My Children.

"Certainly the fact that it is a hot topic right now makes it all that more delicious for us," said All My Children executive producer Julie Hanan Carruthers. "It doesn't mean that that is how we're going to tell the story."

And it's hard to find a TV character with a richer history. Kane has lived a lot since arriving in fictional Pine Valley in 1970, with a drug addiction, time in prison, a stolen embryo, a rape that resulted in a daughter, a stabbing of Husband No. 8 and many, many manipulations.

She reached double figures in husbands just two years ago.

While Demi Moore may seem the prototype cougar these days, Lucci's frame of reference leads her to Anne Bancroft's Mrs. Robinson and her famous seduction of Dustin Hoffman in The Graduate.

In the relationship with Ryan Lavery, "I'm sure people would expect it to be the kind of story line where Erica was manipulating things," Lucci said. "But there's been zero of that."

Those involved say the idea came from the audience.

Carruthers said Lucci, 62, and the 39-year-old Cameron Mathison, who plays Ryan, have a good comic chemistry and writers were looking for a way to feature them more, although not necessarily as romantic partners. Ryan was once married to Kendall, the girl Kane gave birth to after being raped at age 14.

Erica and Ryan went on a business trip together in episodes early this spring. Their car broke down, they found a cabin in the woods, they drew separate baths and, when Erica climbed on Ryan's shoulders searching for better cellphone reception, she slipped and fell into his arms.

Zing!

Viewers noticed the chemistry and writers decided to capitalize on it.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Colbert declares victory in Iraq

COMEDY It's official. U.S. mock pundit Stephen Colbert has declared victory in the war in Iraq. But the top U.S. commander in the country says not so fast.

Colbert, wearing a camouflage suit and tie, brought The Colbert Report to hundreds of U.S. troops at Camp Victory, the U.S. military headquarters on the western edge of Baghdad. He drew rousing applause from the uniformed audience when he poked fun at the fact that many of them have been deployed to Iraq multiple times.

"It must be nice here in Iraq because I understand some of you keep coming back again and again," he said. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

TV Babies!
"Our babies and kids are busy!" says Ann Love at The Baby Face Agency. "In ads, movies, and modelling, some earned $30,000."
"We need cute babies and toddlers and boys and girls up to 16!"
Phones are open now for parents to list babies and kids. Dial (416)
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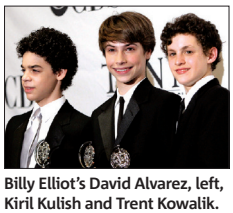

Billy Elliot's David Alvarez, left, Kiril Kulish and Trent Kowalik.

Billy Elliot wins big at the Tonys

THEATRE There was an outpouring of generosity from winners to losers at Broadway's Tony Awards, dominated Sunday by Billy Elliot which won 10, including a best-actor prize shared by Montreal teenager David Alvarez and the other two Billys.

"I'd like to congratulate the writers of Next to Normal," said a gracious Elton John, standing in the middle of cast members and producers after his show, Billy Elliot, won for best musical. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Kenya's Style
Kenya Hunt
Exclusively at metronews.ca/globalstyle
For complete online movie listings, trailers, reviews and tickets, visit: metronews.ca/movies

TO	Vu	SC	C	7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00
primetime 6/9/09	265	353	2 TVO	Undersea Exp.	Parks	The Agenda With Steve Paikin		East West 101		India with Sanjeev Bhaskar		Agenda-Paikin
	211	331	3 GTV	ET Canada	Entertainment	NCIS "Dagger" (HDTV)		Mental (HDTV PA) (N)		Durham County		News
	215	343	4 OMN1	2Half Men	The Simpsons	News (N)		Vivere Il	News (N)	The Simpsons	King of the Hill	Metropia
	210	302	6 CBC	22 Minutes	Laughs	NHL Hockey: Stanley Cup Final Game 6 -- Red Wings at Penguins					CBC News: The National	
	214	344	7 CITY	Law & Order: SVU		Jimmy Kimmel	Friends	Hitched or Ditched (N)		Make Me a Supermodel		News (N)
	212	313	8 CTV	etalk	Hollywood	Canada's Next Top Model (N)		The Mentalist (HDTV)		Law & Order: SVU		News (N)
	218	345	11 E!	The Insider (N)	E! News	Inside Hollywood		X-Weighted		Ruby (N)	Style-Famous	News (N)
	137	763	13 TFO	Panorama été	Tshinanu	Astroboy à Roboland		(9:01) *Ma saison préférée* ★★★ (1993, Drame)				Tournants
	-	-	14 -	Raymond	Raymond	News (N)		News (N)		Two/Half Men	King	Cold Case
	213	326	15 SUN	Scrubs	George Lopez	*Crazy Moon* ★★ (1986, Comedy-Drama), Peter Spence				To Serve and Protect		Becker
	-	387	16 CBS	Inside Edition	Hollywood	NCIS "Dagger" (HDTV)		The Mentalist (HDTV)		(10:01) 48 Hours Mystery		News (N)
	-	385	17 NBC	The Insider (N)	Entertainment	NHL Hockey Stanley Cup Final Game 6 -- Detroit Red Wings at Pittsburgh Penguins.						News (N)
	-	386	18 ABC	Wheel-Fortune	Jeopardy! (N)	Jimmy Kimmel	NBA Count	NBA Basketball Finals Game 3 -- Los Angeles Lakers at Orlando Magic.				
	219	346	20 ACH-B	The Road to Avonlea		Monk Chess genius.		Law & Order: SVU		Cupid		News (N)
	-	-	28 FOX	Judge Judy	Two/Half Men	House "Lucky Thirteen"		Mental (HDTV PA) (N)		Seinfeld	Two-Half Men	The Simpsons
	-	388	61 PBS	News-Lehrer	Foot in Grave	Dr. Wayne Dyer: Excuses Begone!						Business Rpt.
	297	652	330 WPX	Two/Half Men	Family Guy	90210 (HDTV)		Hitched or Ditched (N)		PIX News at Ten Tong.		Two-Half Men
	296	654	331 SBK	Wheel-Fortune	Jeopardy! (N)	Dr. Phil (HDTV)		WBZ News (N)	'70s Show	Frasier	Frasier	Punk'd
	298	653	332 TLA	Jamie Foxx	Wayans Bros.	My Wife-Kids	According-Jim	Friends	KTLA News	Two/Half Men	Two-Half Men	90210
news	502	390	26 NW	(6) Nova Scotia Votes 2009 Polls. (Live)				CBC News: The National		CBC News: The National		National
	500	500	33 CNN	Lou Dobbs Tonight		Campbell Brown (N)		Larry King Live (N)		Anderson Cooper 360 (HDTV)		
	509	504	79 CNB	Kudlow Report		CNBC Reports (HDTV)		Secrets of the Knight		Dirty Money: Prostitution		Mad Money
sports	405	417	22 net	MMA Conn	Jays	MLB Baseball Toronto Blue Jays at Texas Rangers. (HDTV) (Live)						Sportsnet Con.
	400	400	30 TSN	That's Hockey	Interruption	NBA Pregame	NBA Count	NBA Basketball Finals Game 3 -- Los Angeles Lakers at Orlando Magic.				
	411	457	58 OLN	Bounty Hunter	Bounty Hunter	Departures "Iceland"		Mantracker		Bounty Hunter	Bounty Hunter	Departures
	417	406	81 SC	Pimp My Ride	Pass Time	Pimp My Ride	Pimp My Ride	Drag Race	Drag Race	Super Bikes!	Super Bikes!	Pimp My Ride
family	551	542	25 YTV	Survive This	Survive This	Malcolm-Mid.	Futurama	Family Biz	Prank Patrol	Falcon Beach		Mystery Hnt.
	554	544	45 TEL	Jimmy Two	Total Drama	6TEEN	6TEEN	Futurama	American Dad	Robot Chicken	American Dad	Moral Orel
	556	540	51 FAM	Wizards-Place	Han. Montana	Zack & Cody	Latest Buzz	Wizards-Place	Life Derek	Ned's School	Cory in House	Zack & Cody
cable variety	602	567	27 W	How Clean	Friends	Remedy Me	Keep Real	Style by Jury	Style by Jury	How to Look Good Naked		Maxed Out
	570	580	29 MM	One Tree Hill		Degrassi: TNG	Instant Star	Greek Prohibition party.		Black Peas	disBand	One Tree Hill
	615	520	31 A&E	CSI: Miami (HDTV)		The First 48 (HDTV)		The First 48 (HDTV)		The First 48 (HDTV)		The First 48
	700	800	35 TLN	Centrovetrine	Sky TG 24	Magnifica Italia	ItalianFest	Nati Ieri		Raymond	Raymond	George Lopez
	571	581	36 MMM	I'm a Celebrity, Get Me Out.		I'm a Celebrity, Get Me Out.		The Daily Fix		Entourage	I'm a Celebrity, Get Me Out.	
	575	583	38 CMT	Cross Canada Countdown		Home Improve.	Home Improve.	Reba	Reba	Hope & Faith	Hope & Faith	Cheer Moms
	616	521	39 SHO	The Outer Limits		Painkiller Jane		*XIII* (2009, Suspense) Val Kilmer, Stephen McHattie.				House
	620	523	40 BVO	Lord of the Rings Symphony		Live at the Rehearsal Hall		*Neil Young: Heart of Gold* ★★★ (2006, Documentary)				Law & Order
	601	562	41 SLC	Skin Deep	Til Debt-Part	Rich Bride, Poor Bride		Rich Bride, Poor Bride		Rich Bride, Poor Bride		ET Canada
	522	506	43 HIS	NCIS "Mind Games"		Lost Worlds		Zero Hour		NCIS "Mind Games"		Sea Hunters
	625	548	44 COM	Air Farce	Just for Laughs		Corner Gas	The Simpsons	South Park	Hot Box	Awesome	Daily Show
	600	564	46 H&G	House Hunters	Property Virgin	HGTV's Top 10	Dirty Business	SarahCottage	Design Inc.	House Hunters	House Hunters	Holmes-Homes
	294	529	47 TBS	MLB Baseball Pittsburgh Pirates at Atlanta Braves. (HDTV) From Turner Field in Atlanta. (Live)						Home Videos	Seinfeld	Family Guy
	576	582	49 BET	106 & Park: BET's Top 10 Live		*Scary Movie* ★★★ (2000, Comedy) Shawn Wayans.				College Hill	Welcome to	*Scary Movie*
	627	528	50 SPC	Stargate Atlantis (DVS)		Star Trek: Voyager		Torchwood "Fragments"		Watchmen	Watchmen	Stargate SG-1
	581	566	52 MTV	Room Raiders	After	MTV News	Cribs	Hills Wedding	College Life	College Life	Teen Cribs	Teen Cribs
	618	524	54 TROP	Power Play		Tube Tales	Tube Tales	Seinfeld	Raymond	Family Guy	Seinfeld	Seinfeld
	603	561	56 FOOD	Chef at Home	French Food	100 Mile Challenge		The F Word		Good Eats	Good Eats	Iron Chef Am.
	261	394	60 V	Murder, She Wrote		Watchtower	On the Buses	Quantum Leap		The Lost Gods	Search	Poltergeist
	621	527	63 STR	The Ellen DeGeneres Show		TMZ (N)	etalk	Look-A-Like	Look-A-Like	Tonight Show-Conan O'Brien		TMZ
	553	546	65 TRE	Backyardigans	Nght Grdn	Max & Ruby	Franklin	Little Bear	Maggie-Beast	Comfy Couch	Zigby	Max & Ruby
	115	711	101 TVA	Qui perd gagne (SC)		Fort Boyard (SC)		Nos étés "Été 1930" (SC)		TVA 22 heures	Sucré-salé	*Pharmacien*
	126	730	102 RDI	24 Heures en 60 minutes		Grands reportages (SC)		Le Téléjournal (SC)		RDI en direct	Le National	Le Téléjournal
	526	507	249 VIVA	Judging Amy		Missing		The Closer		Encounters	In Dreams	Psychic Inv.
	300	601	301 M1	(6:15) *The Chronicles of Narnia: Prince Caspian* (2008)				*The Incredible Hulk* ★★★ (2008, Action) Edward Norton.				*Growing Op*
	305	612	306 PIX	*What-Daddy?*	*The Big Slice* ★★ (1990, Comedy)			*Trainspotting* ★★★ (1996, Drama)				*To Live and Die in L.A.*

critics' corner

Trainspotting
With some truly disgusting scenes, this 1996 British drama isn't easy to watch, but it deserves to be seen and appreciated for its realistically gritty portrayal of heroin addiction. Ewan McGregor leads the cast as Renton, a young addict trying to get clean but having difficulty staying that way. 9 PM on PIX

NCIS
Gibbs and his team are forced reluctantly to put their trust in some very questionable persons in order to stop a criminal who is determined to steal important government secrets in "Dagger." 8 PM on GTV CBS

Style by Jury
Lots of youngsters dream of running away to join the circus. In this new episode, you'll meet someone who did leave home as a teen to follow the big top. Now a single mom, she's found that the circus life has taken a toll on her appearance. Enter host Bruce Turner and his team of experts to help her look and feel beautiful again. 9:30 PM on W

Neil's new roles

Fresh from his stint as host of The Tonys, Neil Patrick Harris nabbed starring roles in two upcoming flicks. He will take a lead role in Josh Shelov's The Best And The Brightest and in Beastly, the modern-day update of Beauty and The Beast. EMPIREONLINE.COM

Celebrity Buzz

Lindsay lashes out at doctor

SMACKDOWN Lindsay Lohan has blasted a celebrity doctor for claiming she is not sober, femalefirst.co.uk reports.

Dr. Drew Pinsky — who hosts the TV show Celebrity Rehab with Dr. Drew — claimed in an interview Lohan will not resolve her personal issues until she hurts herself, prompting the actress to question his ethics.

She wrote on Twitter: "I thought REAL doctors talked to patients in offices behind closed doors. Am I wrong? Hmmmmm. I think NOT. Yay! (sic)"

Pinsky hinted Lohan — who has completed three stints in rehab and pleaded guilty to cocaine use and no contest to driving under the influence in 2007 — is still abusing substances, adding she has yet to "embrace" cleaning up her life.

He told Parade magazine: "I'm convinced that she'll get sober one day. But I'm afraid that between now and then, she may get a nearly mortal wound of some type. I'm really convinced that something horrible is going to have to happen to her before she really gets over it and embraces sobriety."

This is not the first time Pinsky has enraged a celebrity. Last year, he was forced to apologize to Tom Cruise when he publicly declared the actor must have emotional problems to be involved in the Scientology religion.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Demi's creepy dolls

SECRET OBSESSION Ashton Kutcher is scared of his wife Demi Moore's doll collection, femalefirst.co.uk reports.

The star says the actress' hoard of 3,000 life-like figurines disturbs him and he is begging her to open a museum so he can get them out of their home.

Writing on Twitter, Ashton said: "Spent the day going through wifey's insane doll collection — 3,000 contemporary art dolls all staring at you. I'm gonna have nightmares."

He then added some pictures of the creepy collection and put captions underneath the photos, with one saying: "Hello Ashton, I'm watching you."

"I'm trying to convince the wife to open a doll museum. She also has thousands of Barbies and G.I. Joes."

Moore started collecting them when she was married to Bruce Willis and recently insured the collection for $2 million US.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Say no to breast implants: Denise

YOUTHFUL REGRETS After having three surgeries since the age of 19 to enhance her breasts, Denise Richards can safely say she doesn't recommend it.

"I was 19, and my roommate had the best boobs ever, and she had just had hers done," Richards told Howard Stern on his satellite radio show. "I was as flat as a board, and I thought, 'Whoa, you can just buy them,' and stupidly had them done."

She followed that with another enlargement and then a reduction. "I was young and should have researched better. You know, it was a big mistake. Young girls, don't do it!"

METRO WORLD NEWS

GETTY IMAGES

Recession hits Jon and Kate?

REAL ESTATE WOES Are Jon and Kate Gosselin victims of the nation's poor housing market? According to records, their old home in Elizabethtown, Pa., has been on the market for 89 days and counting, people.com reports.

The price for the five-bedroom 2½-bath house has stayed constant at $325,000 US. (They paid $280,000 for it in 2006.)

Though the home is in a family-friendly area, it wasn't always a peaceful place: Former neighbours say that fans often drove by to gawk at the house.

"Fans were dangerous, fans were always coming right up to their house," says Marilyn Soutner, 49, who lived next door. "I'd stand outside with my phone staring at the door like I was calling the police ... It was making it a very, very dangerous neighbourhood. You don't know who (was) in those cars."

Then one day, "Someone flattened the tires to their black van, and that night they were gone," adds Soutner.

Last fall, the Gosselins moved into a $1.1-million, 6,000-square-foot home in Wernersville, Pa. The 24-acre property is fenced in and has a metal gate at the end of the driveway, a half-mile from the front door. Still, that hasn't stopped paparazzi from hanging out down the road waiting for a glimpse of the family.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Brangie to marry?

FINALLY It looks like all the rumours of trouble between Brad Pitt and Angelina Jolie have convinced the pair to finally tie the knot, according to the Daily Mirror.

"Usually it's Brad who wants to talk marriage. But this time it was Angie," a source tells the newspaper. "An aide sent them all the press clippings about their 'relationship problems' and Angelina said it was probably best if they married to put an end to the stories. Brad's face lit up — he was thrilled."

According to sources, the wedding could take place by the end of the summer, once their current filming obligations are taken care of.

METRO WORLD NEWS

Madonna tries to adopt again?

IF AT FIRST YOU DON'T SUCCEED Since Madonna's chances of adopting another child from Malawi aren't looking good, the singer has reportedly set her sights on Nigeria instead.

"She's looking at adoption centres in Nigeria and has got another female friend to make an initial approach to test the waters," a source tells the News of the World.

The source adds Madonna suspects dating 22-year-old Jesus Luz may have had something to do with her bid failing. "She blamed the fact that her relationship with Jesus made her look like she was going through some mid-life crisis."

METRO WORLD NEWS

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Today Variable 21° / 11°

Wednesday Variable 18° / 10°

Thursday Thunderstorms 80% 18° / 12°

THERE'S EXCITEMENT IN THE AIR.
OF COURSE. THAT COULD JUST BE AN INCREASE IN BAROMETRIC PRESSURE.
WE'RE PROUD TO BE A PART OF LUMINATO, JUNE 5-14
The Weather Network

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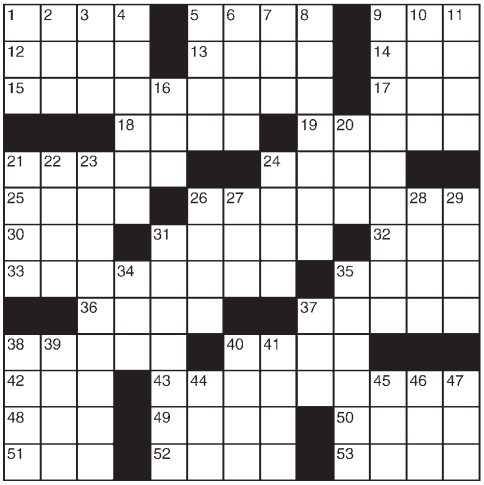
Take Five



Crossword across

1 Out of the storm
5 "Little Women" woman
9 Silent
12 Lion's share
13 Turkish title
14 "SNL" alum Gasteyer
15 Janitor's gadget
17 Feminine side
18 Charged bits
19 Impressively high
21 "Saturday Night Fever" venue
24 Repast
25 Some deer
26 Online talk site
30 $ dispenser
31 Actress Jessica et al.
32 Path
33 Post-WW II birthrate increase
35 Nuisance
36 After all?
37 Country star Brooks
38 Memorable mission
40 "— she blows!"
42 Crib
43 truTV's "Open Court" anchor
48 Fond du —, Wis.
49 Lab vessel
50 Met melody
51 Before
52 Hibernia
53 Shrill bark

Crossword down

1 Pump up the volume
2 Dobbs of CNN
3 Curvy character
4 Morals
5 Farm building
6 Hollywood clashers
7 Yet, in verse
8 Villages
9 Carrier of 1620
10 One
11 Much more than one
16 Greet the villain
20 Rowing need
21 Colourless
22 Teeny bit
23 Modicum
24 Sir counterpart
26 Coagulate
27 Showtime rival
28 Tobacco oven
29 Legend
31 Exculpate
34 Sweet potato
35 Bet the previous winnings
37 Chatter away
38 Competent
39 Storyteller
40 Despot
41 Robust
44 Grandson, maybe
45 Raw rock
46 Lubricant
47 Chart

Sudoku

For more/less challenging Sudoku puzzles, visit metronews.ca

HOW TO PLAY: Digits 1 through 9 will appear once in each zone – one zone is an outlined 3x3 grid within the larger puzzle grid. There are nine zones in the puzzle. Do not enter a digit into a box if it already appears elsewhere in the same zone, row across or column down the entire puzzle.

7				2		3		
1					4	7		6
			5			8		
		1	6		3	9		2
2		8	4		7	1		
		4			5			
8		5	3					1
		6		9				7

PREVIOUS DAY'S CROSSWORD AND SUDOKU ANSWERS:

8	2	6	4	7	3	9	5	1
7	1	5	8	6	9	4	3	2
9	4	3	2	1	5	6	7	8
5	3	2	9	8	6	7	1	4
4	8	7	5	2	1	3	6	9
1	6	9	3	4	7	2	8	5
6	5	8	7	9	2	1	4	3
2	7	4	1	3	8	5	9	6
3	9	1	6	5	4	8	2	7

Find today's answers + play more games at metronews.ca

SUDOKU SOLVE TIME:

Under 13 min .....Genius
13-17 min.....Scholar
17-21 min .....Smart
21-25 min.....Not bad
25+ min.....Keep practising

Metro Recipe of the Day

Oriental Lamb Medallions

INGREDIENTS:

1/2 in. (1 cm) piece fresh ginger
1/4 lb (125 g) broccoli florets
1/4 lb (125 g) leeks
1 bunch of watercress
1/4 lb (125 g) snow peas
1/4 lb (125 g) baby corn
1 lb (450g) lamb fillet, or 8 noisettes of lamb
1–2 (15–25 ml) tbsp olive oil
Salt and black pepper
2 tbsp (25 ml) peanut oil
3 tbsp (45 ml) lamb or chicken stock
1–2 tbsp (15–25 ml) light soy sauce

METHOD:

1. Peel and chop ginger and set aside. Rinse vegetables. Cut broccoli into slices and leek into matchstick-thin strips. Chop watercress, top and tail snow peas, leave baby corn whole. Set all aside.
2. If using lamb fillet, cut into eight 1 in. (2.5 cm) thick medallions. Brush medallions, or noisettes, with olive oil and season with salt and pepper.
3. Warm frying pan over moderate heat, add lamb and dry-fry 2 minutes, or until browned underneath. Turn and fry for 3–4 minutes until cooked but slightly pink in the centre. Cover pan and keep warm.
4. Meanwhile, heat peanut oil in wok or large frying pan. Add ginger and vegetables and stir-fry 3–4 minutes, until just tender.
5. Add stock and soy sauce to vegetables and season to taste, then cover and cook 2 minutes, stirring occasionally.
6. Lay two lamb medallions on each plate and spoon vegetables over and alongside.

SERVES 4

rd.ca
For nutritional information on this and other great recipes, go to rd.ca or check out Key Ingredients in this month's Reader's Digest, on newsstands now!

Horoscopes by Sally Brompton

sallybrompton.com

ARIES ♈
MARCH 21-APRIL 20
Oh no, not another upheaval. What happens next may seem like bad news but you will see that this particular cloud has a magnificent silver lining.

TAURUS ♉
APRIL 21-MAY 21
You will find yourself at odds with the status quo today and that's no bad thing. Question the accepted wisdom. You're making change happen.

GEMINI ♊
MAY 22-JUNE 21
The Sun in your sign won't let you keep a low profile, so quit trying to hide. Stand up where you can be seen and speak out about what you believe.

CANCER ♋
JUNE 22-JULY 22
If you need a break — and you do — start making plans now. There's cosmic activity in the area of your chart that governs rest and relaxation.

LEO ♌
JULY 23-AUG 23
Don't worry if others think you are being unsociable. There are times when you want nothing more than to be left alone with your thoughts.

VIRGO ♍
AUG 24-SEPT 22
With Mercury, your ruler and planet of communication, strong in your chart today you will find it easy to put your thoughts into words.

LIBRA ♎
SEPT 23-OCT 23
Someone seems determined to poke their nose into your affairs — and you must be just as determined not to let them know what you are up to.

SCORPIO ♏
OCT 24-NOV 22
Any doubts you may have about a creative activity of some kind will be gone by the end of the day. Anything is possible for you now.

SAGITTARIUS ♐
NOV 22-DEC 21
If you have been hitting the town with your friends these past few days, you should now spend some quality time with your nearest and dearest.

CAPRICORN ♑
DEC 22-JAN 20
Obviously you need to do something to remind those around you that you are not the sort who can be taken for granted. Give it some thought.

AQUARIUS ♒
JAN 21-FEB 18
Today's Mercury-Uranus link-up will help you dream up new ways to make money but Neptune, planet of illusion, is advising caution. Get advice first.

PISCES ♓
FEB 19-MARCH 20
If you let your intuition guide you today you will have a lot of fun and make some great new friends as well.

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This day in history

JUNE 9, 1534: Jacques Cartier is the first European to discover the Saint Lawrence River.
JUNE 9, 1856: Five hundred Mormons leave Iowa City, Iowa and head west for Salt Lake City carrying all their possessions in two-wheeled handcarts.
JUNE 9, 1873: Alexandra Palace burnt down, after being open for only 16 days.
JUNE 9, 1968: United States President Lyndon B. Johnson declares a national day of mourning following the assassination of Senator Robert F. Kennedy.

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